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yayoi ogawa

小川彌生

キス&ネバークライ

Kiss and Never Cry

◇Kodansha Comics Kiss◇ 講談社

KC 701

キス&ネバークライ 4

KC Kiss

小川彌生

◇Kodansha Comics Kiss◇

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みちる、晶、礼音、
3人の「春の祭典」の結果は……!?

NHK杯で「春の祭典」を滑ることを決意した
みちるは、礼音、晶とともに厳しい練習を開始
する。そんな中、みちるの過去の交通事件の
真相と四方田コーチの殺害
事件の関係が次第に
明らかに……!!

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小川彌生
yayoi ogawa
協力／齋藤貴子
キス&ネバークライ
Kiss and Never Cry

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[3rd Movement] *Step1. Polyrhythm*

THE RITE OF SPRING,
I WANT TO DO IT WITH YOU AGAIN
THOSE WORDS, SO UNEXPECTED
AND A LITTLE PAINFUL,
NONETHELESS CAUSED MY HEART TO REJOICE
SO INSTEAD OF DOING IT THIS SEASON... YOU WANT TO DO IT FOR NATIONALS?
NO.
I WANT TO DO IT FOR THE NHK CUP
THE NHK?!
BUT THAT'S ONLY A MONTH... NO, NOT EVEN, IT'S ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY!
BUT THE CHOREOGRAPHY IS COMPLETE
THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS FIT IT TO THE MUSIC AND MAKE A FEW ADJUSTMENTS, RIGHT?

WHY ARE YOU BRING-ING THIS UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE...
BUT HAVE HIKARU-SAN AND MARY-SAN AGREED TO THIS?
I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO COACH DAN-DOWA YET...
BUT HIKARU SAN...
THAT'S TRUE
OUR COMPONENT SCORES HAVEN'T BEEN IMPROVING AT ALL. I HAD THOUGHT WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THE RITE OF SPRING AS WELL, SINCE IT HAS A HIGHER FOUNDATION SCORE
BUT IF WE'RE UNDERPREPARED, THEN OUR *GOE SCORE WILL SUFFER
HIKARU-SAN IT MUST'VE OCCURRED TO YOU AS WELL
EVEN IF WE SKATE ROMEO AND JULIET PERFECTLY, WE WON'T SCORE VERY WELL
HMM.
IF WE AREN'T GOING TO GET A GOOD SCORE NO MATTER WHAT WE DO,
I'D RATHER SKATE THE PIECE THAT WILL LEAVE AN IMPRES-SION ON THE JUDGES AND AUDIENCE.
*FR NOTE GOE REFERS TO THE GRADE OF EXECUTION, WHICH MEA-SURES THE QUALITY WITH WHICH THE ELEMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

SFX: BLUSH
IS IT TRUE
THAT YOU BROKE UP WITH LEON?
...
IF YOU ASK HIM TO DO THE CHOREOGRAPHY, HE'LL DEFINITELY AGREE.
BUT WON'T YOU JUST BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM AND HIS FEELINGS?
TH-THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...
IT BECAME MY BUSINESS WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP A SECRET
I DON'T THINK IT IS FAIR FOR YOU TO BE LEADING HIM ON LIKE THIS.
NUH-UH!
DON'T SAY NUH-UH.
(It's too damn cute.)
AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE BEING UNFAIR TO HIM.
FINE, I'LL TELL HIM!
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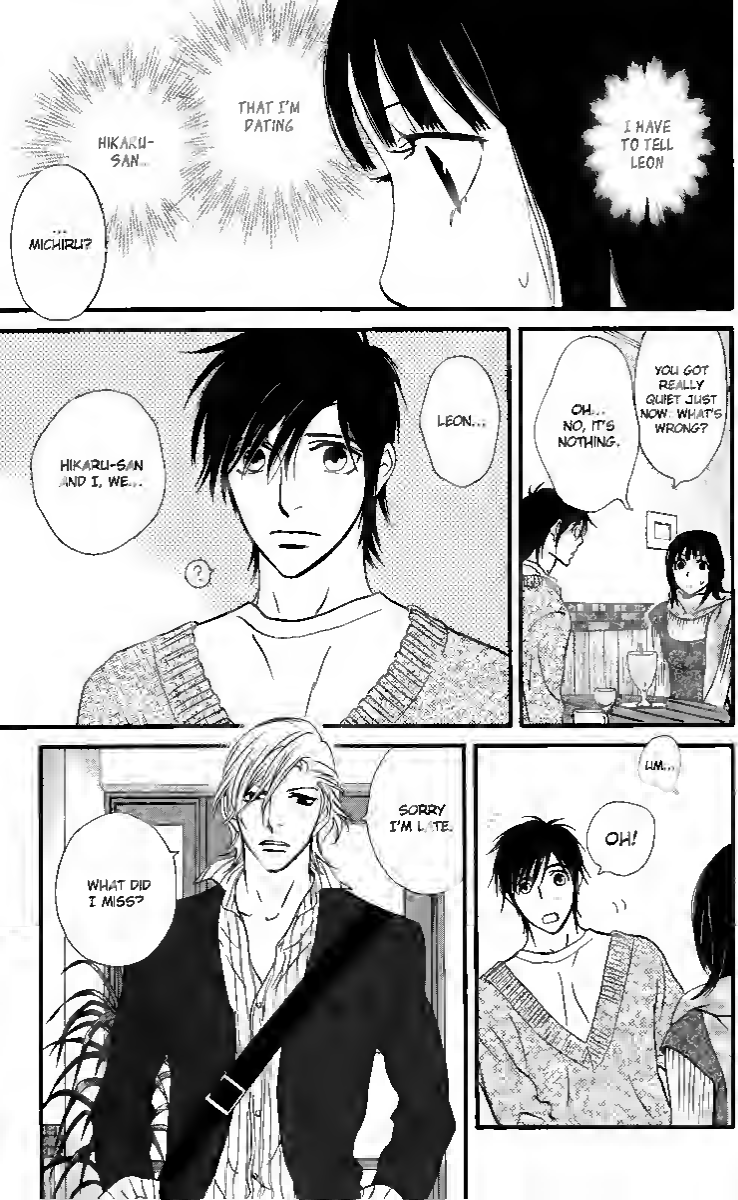
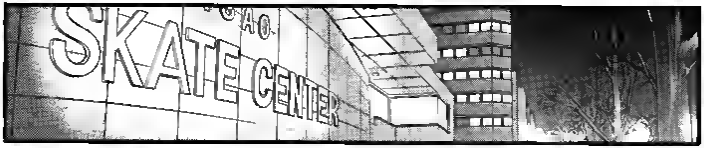

I HAVE TO TELL LEON
THAT I'M DATING
HIKARU-SAN...
... MICHIRU?
YOU GOT REALLY QUIET JUST NOW. WHAT'S WRONG?
OH... NO, IT'S NOTHING.
LEON...
HIKARU-SAN AND I, WE...
?
UM...
OH!
SORRY I'M LATE.
WHAT DID I MISS?

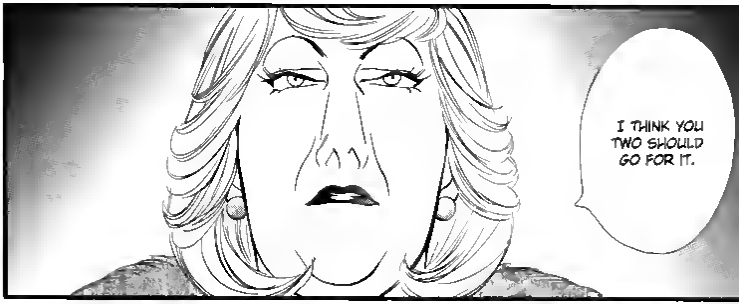
SO YOU GUYS WANT TO SKATE THE RITE OF SPRING AT THE NHK CUP?
YEAH,
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, WE'D LIKE TO TELL MARY-SAN AT THE RINK TONIGHT, SO COULD YOU BE THERE?
AND? ABOUT THE OTHER THING?
THE OTHER THING?
YOU KNOW...
THAT MICHIRU AND I ARE D-
SFX: CLAP
OH, SORRY, I NEED TO TAKE THIS CALL
HELLO? TAKESHI-SAN?
STANDS
DON'T DO THAT!!
Do you want me to die?!
Mmph!
MMHMM
AREN'T YOU PLANNING ON TELLING HIM?
STOP SAYING THAT.

Evil Flowers
LIKE THE FACT.
THAT I'M DOING IT WITH YOU
I'M GOING TO TELL HIM.
BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE OTHER STUFF
OTHER STUFF?
SFX: BA-DUMP
WHAT? YOU WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE LAMAZE TECHNIQUE IS IN-IN-OUT OR OUT-OUT-IN?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, COULD YOU PLEASE CALM DOWN A LITTLE?
WHY WERE YOU EATING EVEN ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
Most people moderate themselves during the season you know
UM, EXCUSE ME.
BUT I HAVEN'T GAINED ANY WEIGHT...
SOMETIMES SHE'S AWFULLY CAVALIER ABOUT THESE THINGS...
MENU
OH, EXCUSE ME. I'D LIKE AN ESPRESSO AND ANOTHER MATCHA PARFAIT
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

I'LL DEFINITELY BE AT THE RINK LATER, DON'T WORRY SEE YOU THEN
W-WAIT

H-HEY-
THERE'S NO ONE AT THE STUDIO RIGHT NOW, SO I'M GOING TO CHECK ON IT.
TAKESHI-SAN'S WIFE IS GIVING BIRTH, AND HE IS KIND OF PANICKING


SKATE CENTER


I THINK YOU TWO SHOULD GO FOR IT.

AND THE PASSION YOU HAVE FOR THIS PIECE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
I HAD THOUGHT THE TWO OF YOU MIGHT SUGGEST IT.
UH. REALLY?

YOU'RE RIGHT... THE ON-ICE TIME SHOULD BE USED FOR RUN-THROUGHS NOT PRACTICES.
Thanks Leon
I CAN LOOK INTO THAT, IF YOU'D LIKE
IF WE CAN BORROW THE KDLC STUDIO, WE'LL BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE OFF-ICE PRACTICE TIME
BUT MARY THERE'S NO TIME
THEY ONLY HAVE RINK TIME THREE DAYS A WEEK HERE
WELL...
YES. THAT IS CERTAINLY A PROBLEM
LET'S JUST TAKE IT EASY!
WELL, SINCE YOU GUYS AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT TO THE FINALS ANYWAYS,
KDLC DANCE LUNER COMMUNITY
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
YOU'RE OFF BEAT AGAIN.
2234 5678
DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY THE FLUTE.
I... UH...
SHOULD I NOT HAVE SAID THAT...?
HAVE A LITTLE MORE TACT, WORTHLESS MANAGER

4234
5678
AND THE LIFT,
NOW COUNT SIX BEATS
NOW WAIT FOR EIGHT COUNTS...
YOU'RE TOO EARLY!

I JUST CAN'T GET IT RIGHT... THE MUSIC AND THE COUNTS DON'T LINE UP.
I SUPPOSE IT MUST SEEM THAT WAY

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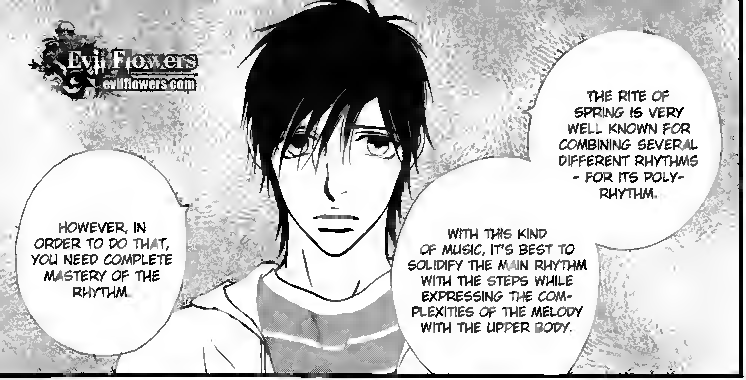
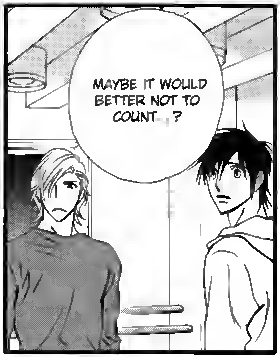
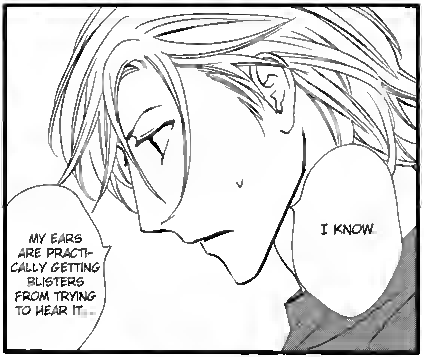
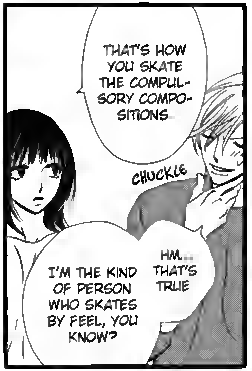

THE RITE OF SPRING IS VERY WELL KNOWN FOR COMBINING SEVERAL DIFFERENT RHYTHMS - FOR ITS POLY-RHYTHM.
WITH THIS KIND OF MUSIC, IT'S BEST TO SOLIDIFY THE MAIN RHYTHM WITH THE STEPS WHILE EXPRESSING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE MELODY WITH THE UPPER BODY.
HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO DO THAT, YOU NEED COMPLETE MASTERY OF THE RHYTHM.





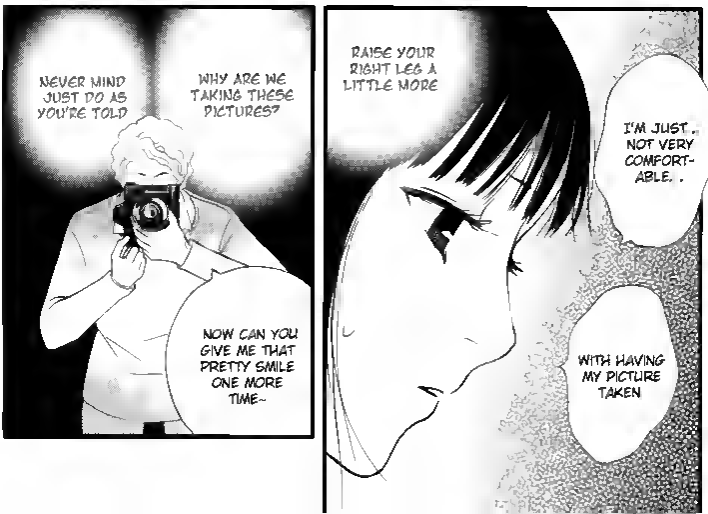


ALL RIGHT, THEN. HIKARU-SAN, TRY TO LISTEN TO THE PIECE AS MUCH POSSIBLE, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE AT HOME.
AT LEAST TEN TIMES A DAY UNTIL YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE THING MEMORIZED.
UGH.
WHEN I REALLY GET THE FEELING THAT THEY ARE PARTNERS THROUGH AND THROUGH
BUT IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS
I SUPPOSE THAT IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
If we keep count during the waltz, you're disaster
Don't call me a disaster
...HEY
I'M GOING TO USE THE DRESSING ROOM IF THAT'S ALRIGHT.
OF COURSE GOOD WORK TONIGHT.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE'S SO HUNG UP ON DOING THE RITE OF SPRING?

... I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE, BUT I FEEL LIKE...
IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER PAST
HER PAST?
WHAT PAST?
ABOUT THAT...
IF SHE HASN'T TOLD YOU, THEN I SHOULDN'T SAY ANYMORE
Jerk...
GOOD, GOOD, NOW TILT YOUR HEAD TO THE LEFT.
NICE, VERY CUTE
SFX. CLICK

WHY DON'T WE CHANGE THE POSITION OF THE RE-FLECTORS?
I'M GOING TO TOUCH UP HER MAKE-UP
COULD YOU SMILE JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE? JUST TURN UP THE CORNERS OF YOUR MOUTH...
YES, YES, LIKE THAT! VERY PRETTY.
SFX. CLICK

SORRY..
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'RE LOOK-ING A LITTLE PALE

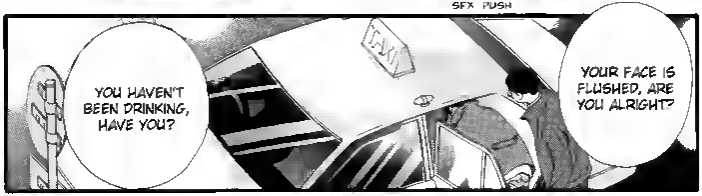

NEVER MIND JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD
WHY ARE WE TAKING THESE PICTURES?
NOW CAN YOU GIVE ME THAT PRETTY SMILE ONE MORE TIME~
RAISE YOUR RIGHT LEG A LITTLE MORE
I'M JUST.. NOT VERY COMFORT-ABLE..
WITH HAVING MY PICTURE TAKEN

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HATED, THEN BE GOOD
SFX: CLCK
THE FEATURE ON YOUNG FEMALE ATHLETES WAS A BIG HIT!
HAHAH- AHAHA!
OH- BUT A COSPLAY SHOT SOUNDS REALLY GOOD TOO~
HOW ABOUT FOR THE NEXT PHOTO SHOOT, WE GO ABROAD - A BATHING SUIT SPECIAL, MAYBE!
MAYBE HAWAII - OR THE PHILIP-PINES!
AMONG THEM ALL, KUROKI-SAN WAS CERTAINLY THE PRETTIEST! RIGHT, MATSUI?
MICHIRU-CHAN, SMILE, SMILE!
WITH-OUT A DOUBT!
I'D LIKE TO SEE MICHIRU-CHAN'S ABSOLUTE TERRI-TORY ~~ JUST KIDDING~!
SLIP
SFX: SHIVER

WELL, WE DON'T WANT TO ADVERSELY AFFECT TOMORROW'S PRACTICE SO WE'LL BE GOING!
MY MY NECK HURTS.
EDITOR, YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK

OH~ MY~
WE SPECIALIZE IN ATHLETICS, SO WE DON'T REALLY TAKE REQUESTS LIKE THAT!

SFX PUSH


YOUR FACE IS FLUSHED, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING, HAVE YOU?

WE NEED TO FIND A NEW SPONSOR.

IT'S ALRIGHT
IT DIDN'T REALLY BOTHER ME

TO AOYAMA PLEASE!
NO
JEEZ, THAT LECHEROUS EDITOR.
MICHIRU-CHAN, IT'S OKAY TO SPEAK UP WHEN YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING

OKAY, HEAD STRAIGHT UP TO BED
GOOD NIGHT.
click
Vroom
HIKARU-SAN?
CAN I COME OVER...?
IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO STAY OVER?
MAMA IS WITH THE JUNIOR KIDS IN SENDAI TONIGHT...

WAIT

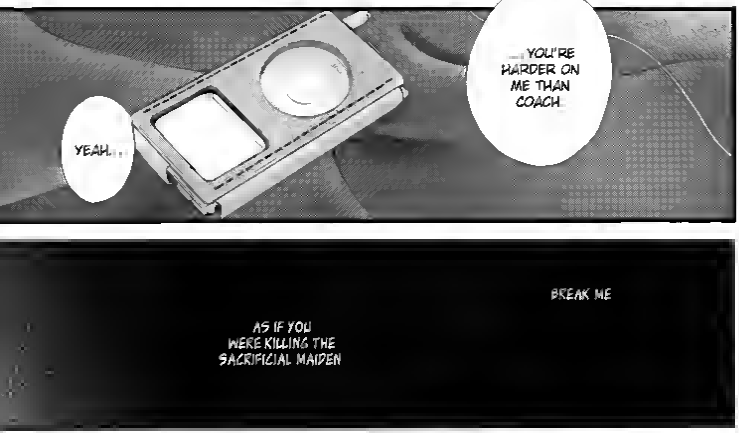
WELL THEN
I DON'T MIND IF I DO

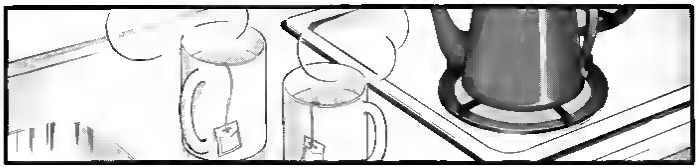
SEX LIFT

THE RITE OF SPRING?!
YUP.
YOU PROMISED TO LISTEN TO IT AT HOME.

Slip

LET'S DO IT TO THE MUSIC


...YOU'RE HARDER ON ME THAN COACH...
YEAH...
BREAK ME
AS IF YOU WERE KILLING THE SACRIFICIAL MAIDEN



...HEY,
YOU HAVEN'T ONCE GONE TO VISIT YOUR STEP-DAD SINCE HE COLLAPSED, HAVE YOU?

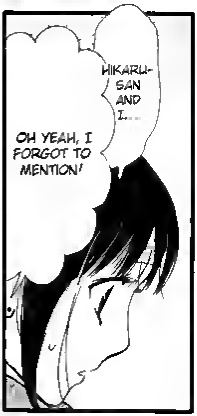
THAT TIME WHEN HE CAME TO THE RINK, TOO, YOU WERE. .
DO YOU TWO NOT GET ALONG?
I WON'T TALK ABOUT HIM ANYMORE, SO YOU CAN COME OUT
OKAY, OKAY
HIDE
JEEZ.
YOU REALLY ARE . . SO FULL OF SECRETS

*GOUDA TAKESHI
HEY, MICHIRU-CHAN!
THANKS FOR THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT! ♥
OH, DON'T MENTION IT... THANK YOU FOR LETTING US USE YOUR STUDIO.
NOT A PRO-BLEM, IT WAS MY PLEASURE!
I offered it to you in the first place
BUT I'M WORRIED THAT LEON'S PUSHING HIMSELF TOO HARD
HE'S SO EAGER TO HELP,
BECAUSE IT'S A FAVOUR YOU'VE ASKED OF HIM.
But he's totally overworked
...
LATER!
OH WELL AS A REWARD, GIVE HIM A TOOTHBRUSH, OR SOMETHING
MICHIRU!
RUH?
UH... YEAH...
A tooth brush?

UM... LEON...

HIKARU-SAN'S ALREADY HERE
YOU TWO CAME SEPARATELY TODAY?
AH, YES I WENT HOME BEFORE HIM.

LEON IS MORE AROUSED BY BLACK TIGHTS THAN BY BARE LEGS!
TAKE-SHI-SAN!


HIKARU-SAN AND I...
OH YEAH, I FORGOT TO MENTION!

HM?
WELL... I... UH...

REMEMBER THAT IT'S A FIGHTING SCENE.
...ALRIGHT, I'M GOING TO PLAY YOU THE MUSIC FOR THE SECOND SECTION

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SFX BAM
MICHIRU!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
I'M AL-RIGHT
YOUR LIP IS BLEEDING
I'LL GO GET THE FIRST-AID KIT
I'M SORRY, I BET THAT HURT.
YOU JUST CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE
IT'S OKAY

DISINFECTANT, DISINFECTANT...
JEEZ, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CANS OF COOLING SPRAYS?!
How many cans of other seriously?
GUZE
MAYBE ...
THE RITE OF SPRING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
IF YOU GET N EVEN BIGGER INJURY...
...YOU'RE GETTING COLD FEET?
JUST BECAUSE OF THIS?
OFFENDED
I JUST...
I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE SO FIXATED ON THIS PROGRAM!
WAIT... SHE MAY HAVE HIT HER HEAD OR SOMETHING...
MAYBE SHE'LL NEED PAINKILLERS TOO
OGAWA

YOMO..
YES... NO...
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN ME..
BUT.. IN MY PLACE..
LAST NIGHT TOO, YOU WERE MUMBLING SOMETHING LIKE,
YOU WERE THE SACRIFICIAL MAIDEN
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...?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
...
AH... HEY!
RUNS
DON'T JUST STOP TALKING IN THE MIDDLE OF A SENTENCE, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!
ABOUT WHAT?!
ABOUT THIS SECRET THAT YOU CAN TELL LEON BUT NOT ME?!
HOLD ON!
HIKARU-SAN!
SFX DROP

GET OUT OF MY WAY...
PLEASE DON'T PRESSURE MICHIRU
...YOU THINK THAT YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HER ?
WELL, DID YOU KNOW...
WE'RE SLEEPING TOGE-THER
WE HAVE BEEN FOR A WHILE.
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN PAINKILLERS ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO ME.
BUT THEY COULD DO NOTHING FOR THE PAIN SLOWLY GROWING INSIDE MY HEART
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UM..
Next time let's..
Test Evil Flowers
EVIL FLOWERS ISN'T SURE WHEN A NEXT TIME MIGHT BE
WHAT——?
WHY NOT?!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
Unlike popular anime releases don't just naturally appear. And Evil Flowers has a lot of projects and not enough staff.
WORK!
WORK!
Is we ask our editors to do it again, more times might just explode.
SO JOIN US!
So we sign at see what happens next!

The crazy rabbits!
Evil Flowers' staff!
We need Japanese Translators for all these projects!!!
Sensei to Nasho
Rakuen Route
Honey Bitter
Toki Moka
Bandage no Maihou no Shita
Mangetsu no Yoru ni Akuma no Kiss
Short Sunzen
Clover
Gal Kadou
ry Dynamite
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!
VISIT US AT: WWW.EVILFLOWERS.COM

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Kiss and Never Cry

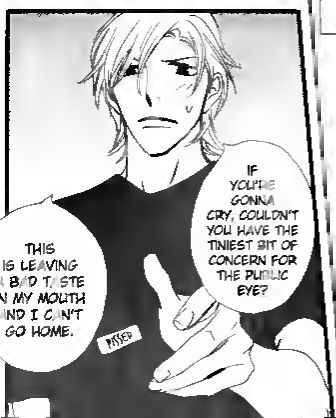
I THINK
COLD SPRAY
COLD SPRAY
YOU SHOULD TEND TO HER WOUNDS, SO..
HERE...
...
...IT WAS A JOKE,
WHAT I JUST SAID...
... HIKARU-SAN,
YOU'RE THE WORST LIAR

Slam
TAP
TAP
TAP
MICHIRU!
to chase after her.
It's not my place
"Are you OK……?"

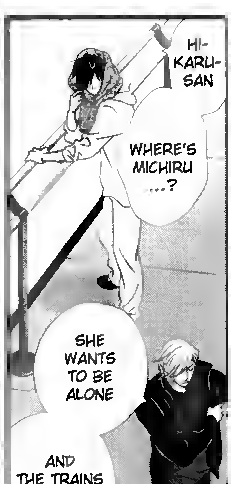
I'M NOT OK...
I can still remember clearly
the first words I ever exchanged with her.
AT ALL...

WHOOSH
But...

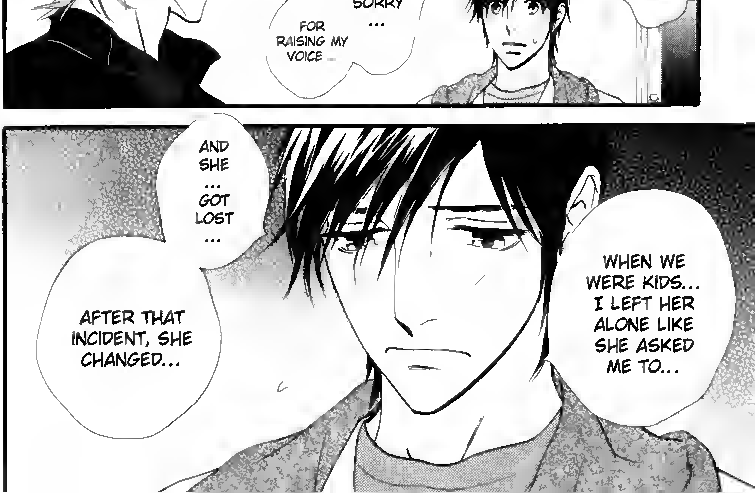
If we had just continued living out our happy childhoods,
and today I might have been in love with a different girl.
my feelings may have ended simply as a fleeting first love


IF YOU'RE GONNA CRY, COULDN'T YOU HAVE THE TINIEST BIT OF CONCERN FOR THE PUBLIC EYE?
THIS IS LEAVING A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH AND I CAN'T GO HOME.
PUSH!

YOU CAN'T LEAVE MICHIRU BY HERSELF!


1
HI-KARU-SAN
WHERE'S MICHIRU ....?
SHE WANTS TO BE ALONE
AND THE TRAINS ARE STILL RUNNING ANYWAY.

I'M SORRY ... FOR RAISING MY VOICE...
OH...


AND SHE ... GOT LOST ...
AFTER THAT INCIDENT, SHE CHANGED...
WHEN WE WERE KIDS... I LEFT HER ALONE LIKE SHE ASKED ME TO...

EVEN WHEN SHE HEARD THAT COACH YOMOTO HAD PASSED AWAY...
SHE BARELY REACTED EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD BEEN SO ATTACHED TO HIM..
MY BROTHER'S DEATH AND MICHIRU GETTING LOST OCCURRED CLOSE TO EACH OTHER?
WHAT? OH YEAH, NEARLY AT THE SAME TIME.
8 YEARS AGO, THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 22ND
IF I RECALL, COACH'S BODY WAS FOUND ABOUT 2 DAYS LATER..
... HIKARU-SAN?
THAT'S MY BROTHER'S
ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH...

poku
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
poku
HOW IS EVERYTHING CONNECTED ...?
poku
It should've been me...
In my place...
"If you're partnering with her
you shouldn't delve in too deep"

...LEON
SORRY ...
COULD YOU COME WITH ME?

GASHA
WHAT ARE THOSE? DVDS ...?
I TRIED TO WATCH IT JUST ONCE...
BUT IT MADE ME FEEL SICK SO I STOPPED PARTWAY THROUGH
I GOT IT FROM THE MAN WHO SHOT MICHIRU'S STEP-DAD...
IT'S PROBABLY AT A SITE WHERE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY WAS BEING FILMED
APPARENTLY IT'S SECRET FOOTAGE FROM THERE AND THE IMAGES ARE A LITTLE CHOPPY.
THE SOUND IS ALSO BAD QUALITY
. DO YOU REMEMBER...
WHAT MICHIRU WAS WEARING WHEN SHE GOT LOST..?
EH...
WHY..?
DON'T TELL ME...

No……

Please……
Take me home……
No…!

WAAHHH!
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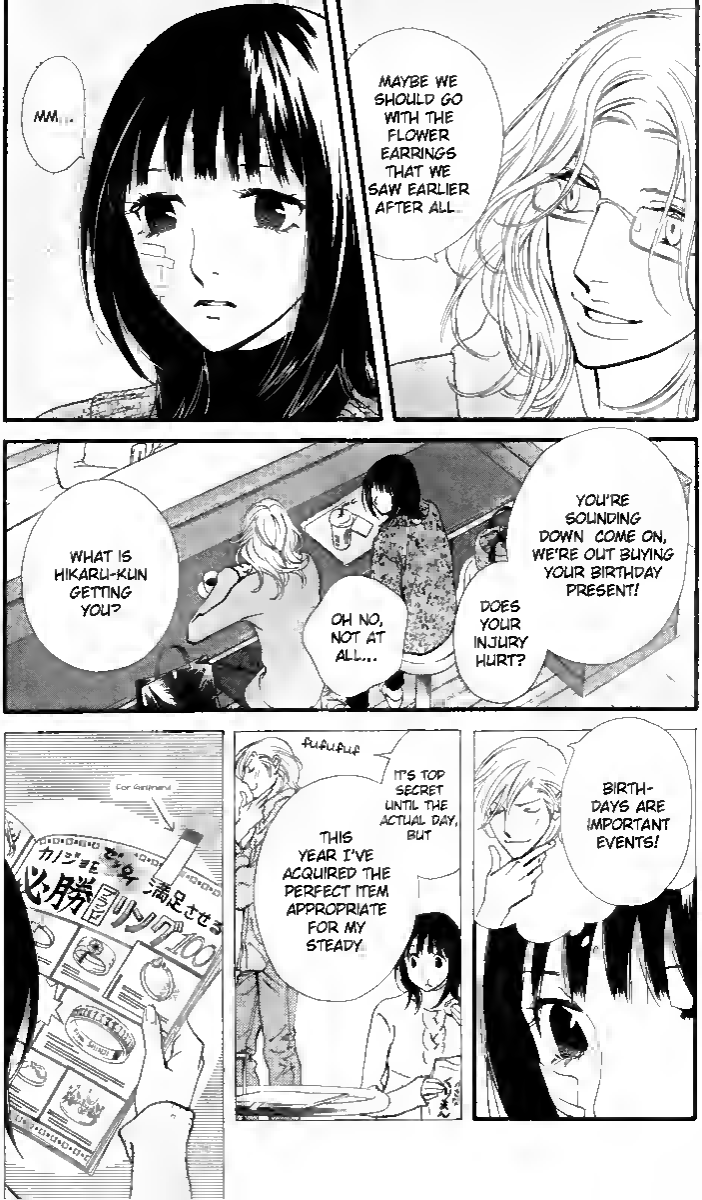
CRASH
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
UGH
MICHIRU?!
HEY, GET IT TOGET-HER!
OH.
IS SHE MICHIRU?!
OH.
IT'S MY BROTHER...

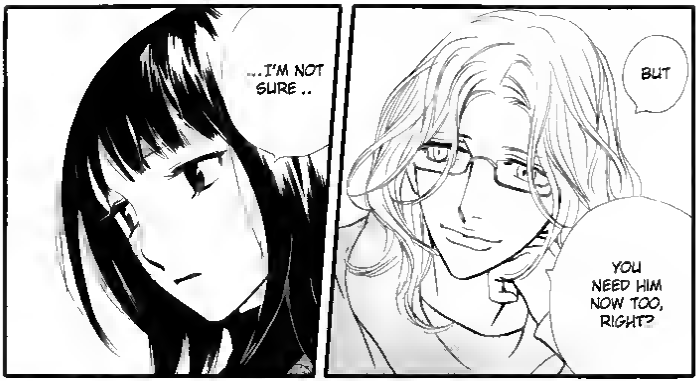
IS THE NAME OF SOMEBODY WHO IS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN KAKERU'S DEATH
THE PASSWORD
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN ME...
MI...
kac-tha
kac-tha
IN MY PLACE
CHI ...
kac-tha
COACH YOMOTA!
...RU
kacha

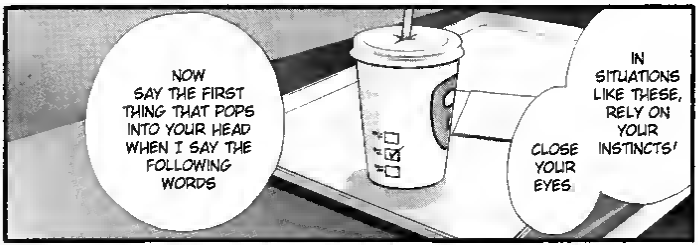
SO YOU'RE TURNING 19 TOMORROW ..

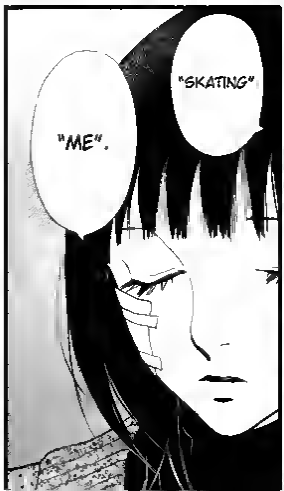

MM...
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO WITH THE FLOWER EARRINGS THAT WE SAW EARLIER AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE SOUNDING DOWN COME ON, WE'RE OUT BUYING YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
DOES YOUR INJURY HURT?
OH NO, NOT AT ALL...
WHAT IS HIKARU-KUN GETTING YOU?
BIRTH-DAYS ARE IMPORTANT EVENTS!
IT'S TOP SECRET UNTIL THE ACTUAL DAY, BUT
THIS YEAR I'VE ACQUIRED THE PERFECT ITEM APPROPRIATE FOR MY STEADY.
For Ketchand

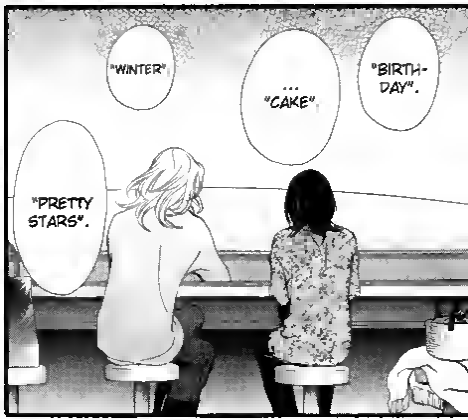
SOME-THING I CAN EAT.
LIKE A END-OF-YEAR GIFT?!
A WATCH? EARRINGS? A SUITE ROOM WITH A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT VIEW?
THEN... THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHY SO GIRLY...
YOU'RE KIDDING!
I DON'T WANT A RING.
Seriously, shouldn't one
MICHIRU, YOU DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIKARU-KUN, RIGHT..?
UH...
IF HE LISTENS TO MY REQUEST THEN I SHOULD BE GETTING DANGO.
AH, THE KUMAMOTO SPECIALTY
Those are yummy.
Nod
..THAT WAS QUITE A PAUSE..

I...
HAVE BEEN LYING HORRIBLY TO HIKARU-SAN...
...A LIE?
WELL NOT REALLY A LIE.
MORE LIKE I'VE BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING FROM HIM THAT I NEED TO TELL HIM
... SOMETHING THAT, IF I WERE TO TELL HIM
I COULDN'T BLAME HIM FOR HATING ME.
SOME-THING THAT I COULDN'T BLAME HIM...
FOR ANYTHING HE DID IN RETALIATION ...
THAT'S WHY... WHEN HE ASKED ME TO BE HIS PARTNER
AND WHEN WE DID IT FOR THE FIRST TIME
I JUST DID AS HE ASKED BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED... B...


...I'M NOT SURE ..
BUT
YOU NEED HIM NOW TOO, RIGHT?


NOW SAY THE FIRST THING THAT POPS INTO YOUR HEAD WHEN I SAY THE FOLLOWING WORDS
CLOSE YOUR EYES
IN SITUATIONS LIKE THESE, RELY ON YOUR INSTINCTS!


"SKATING"
"ME".


"WINTER"
...
"CAKE".
"BIRTH-DAY".
"PRETTY STARS".

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zaza...
as long as I'm given the chance to be near you,
I will not run
footstep

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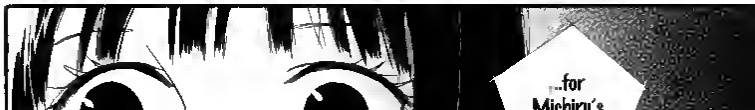
in order to protect you from all the pain...
WHAT IS HIKARU DOING?!
PRACTICE IS ALMOST OVER!
IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BE THIS LATE WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW.

HIKARU-SAN. .
IF HE DOESN'T SHOW HE WILL BE PUNISHED
TURTLE SHELL BONDAGE!
WHERE DO YOU LEARN THESE PHRASES...?
MM...
HIKARU-KUN NEVER SHOWED UP
WELL, IS HE NOT PICKING UP HIS CELL PHONE?
...
THIS IS TROUBLING AND NOW OF ALL TIMES ..
GACHA

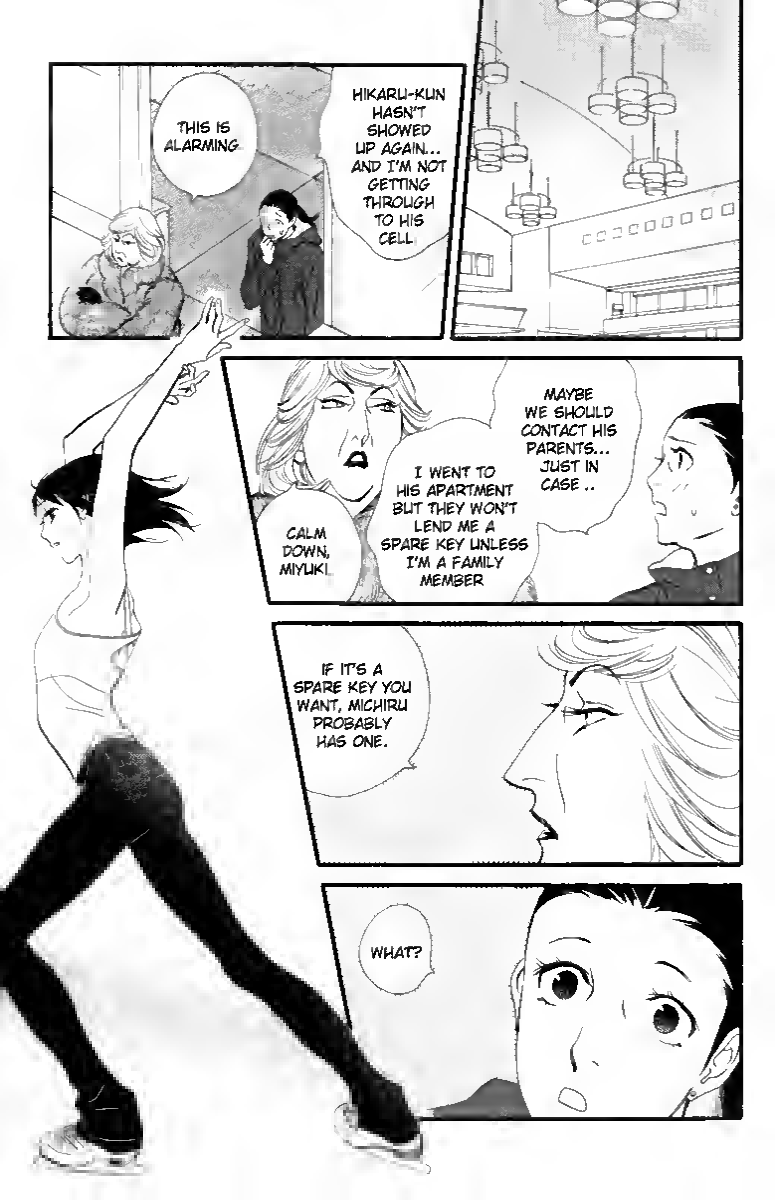
HIKARU-SAN .?
A RING
click
I am currently away from the phone. Please leave a message after the tone...
RING RING RING
!
...Hikaru-san
it's Leon.

Please come to practice.
Let's forget about it for now...
...about the DVD.

about your brother's diary.


...for Michiru's sake.

at least for now


THIS IS ALARMING
HIKARU-KUN HASN'T SHOWED UP AGAIN... AND I'M NOT GETTING THROUGH TO HIS CELL
CALM DOWN, MIYUKI.
I WENT TO HIS APARTMENT BUT THEY WON'T LEND ME A SPARE KEY UNLESS I'M A FAMILY MEMBER
MAYBE WE SHOULD CONTACT HIS PARENTS... JUST IN CASE ..
IF IT'S A SPARE KEY YOU WANT, MICHIRU PROBABLY HAS ONE.
WHAT?

WHAT HAPPENED TO MICHIRU AND HIKARU-SAN?
APPARENTLY HIKARU HASN'T SHOWED UP.
IT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS. GO ON, DO 2 MORE LAPS
OKAY
HER PARTNER STOOD HER UP. HOW TRAGIC.
EVEN IF YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH TALENT AND GOOD LOOKS, IF PARTNER RELATIONS ARE BAD, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
POOR GIRL.
WHISPER
POOR GIRL...
CRUNCH
HEY... LOOK!

whoosh
crunch
Whoosh
TRIPLE LUTZ.
PRETTY LANDING..

...EVEN WITH THE QUAD TOE LOOP PUT TO REST
MICHIRU COULD PROBABLY STILL MAKE IT AS A SINGLES SKATER
MICHIRU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP FOOLING AROUND!
Realize
UM, HERE
HE TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU..
WHO?
HEY
MICHIRU ...
Happy birthday! Sorry it's not something you can eat

IT WAS JUST A SECOND AGO! SO HE'S PROBABLY STILL CLOSE BY!
Dash
SHH SHH HE TOLD ME TO NOT LET ANYBODY ELSE KNOW
HIKARU-SAN?! HE WAS HERE?!
HIKARU-SAN!
BAM
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...IT WAS COLDER
AT THE RINK.

...

...DON'T COME OUT DRESSED LIKE THAT
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.

...I'D LIKE TO HOLD YOU CLOSE...
AND WARM YOU UP, BUT...

float

I CAN'T TOUCH YOU ANYMORE.
SORRY.
Flop

I CAN'T TOUCH YOU ANYMORE.
..HIKA ...SA..
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO PARTNER WITH ANYBODY ELSE!
WE'LL WIN NATIONALS NEXT YEAR!
BUMP
4 days away
the NHK cup was fast approaching
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UM..
Next time let's..
Test Evil Flowers
EVIL FLOWERS ISN'T SURE WHEN A NEXT TIME MIGHT BE
WHAT——?
WHY NOT?!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
Unlike popular anime releases don't just naturally appear. And Evil Flowers has a lot of projects and not enough staff.
WORK!
WORK!
Is we ask our editors to do it again, more times might just explode.
SO JOIN US!
So we sign at see what happens next!

The crazy rabbits!
Evil Flowers' staff!
We need Japanese Translators for all these projects!!!
Sensei to Nasho
Rakuen Route
Honey Bitter
Toki Moka
Bandage no Maihou no Shita
Mangetsu no Yoru ni Akuma no Kiss
Short Sunzen
Clover
Gal Kadou
ry Dynamite
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!
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Brought to you by:
Evil Flowers
And Never Cry Volume 04 Chapter 21
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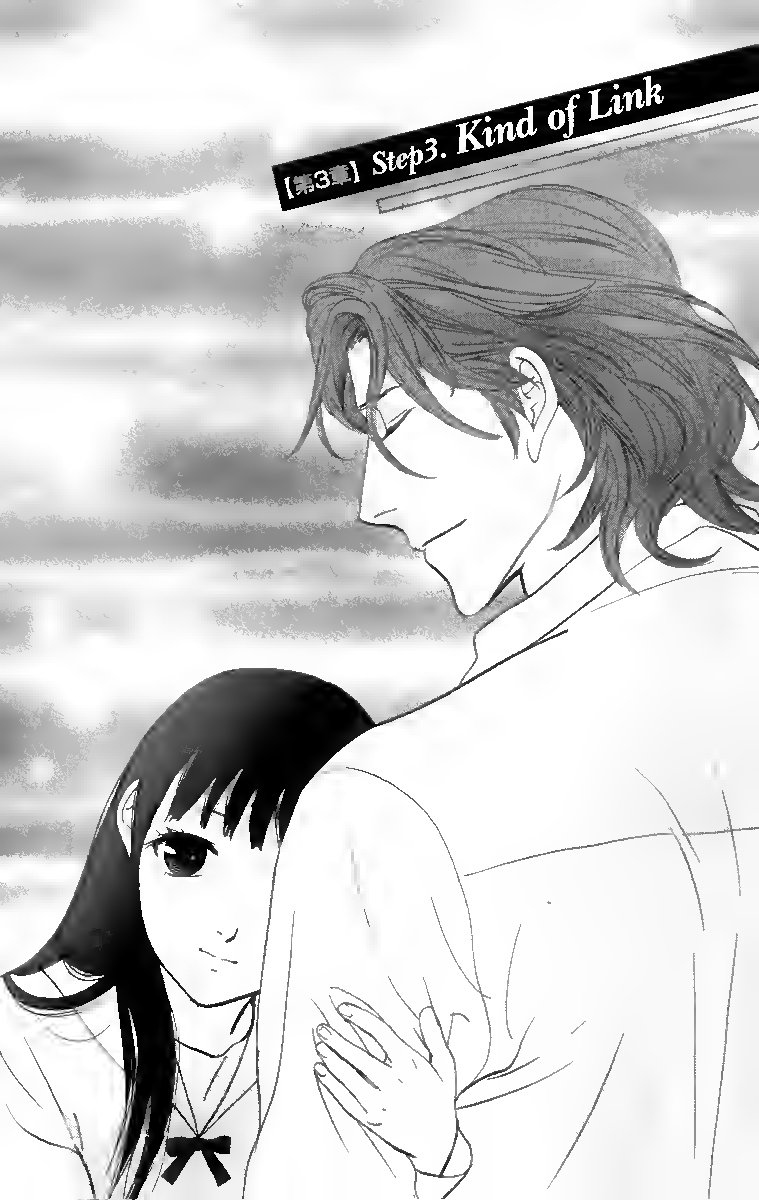
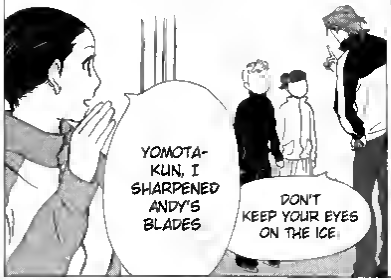

【第3章】 Step3. Kind of Link

X month X day:
Three months have passed since I started working in this city. It's not my first time living in America, but I still struggle with the language. I plan on writing these journal entries in English for practice.

Being a child I didn't know anything.

not even the thoughts that occupied him whom I had thought was so close to me. What he suffered from. I didn't know

Kuroki Rink has many Japanese children, and I feel comfortable. I'm grateful to the Kurokis for inviting me here.



I'm especially indebted to Miyuki-san who's been watching out for me ever since she has been actively competing.

I myself should've realized earlier. Actually, it may have been better if I'd never realized.

Since I can't imagine I could make her happier than Mr. Kuroki...

X month X day:
Apparently, my colleague Emily, who also acts as my partner in the shows can tell.

X month X day:
Michiru is pretty attached to me.

Physically, she seems like a mini Miyuki-san. But the occasional glimpses one gets of her strong gaze is reminiscent of her father Ryou-san.

Sergei says that Michiru is being abused by Mr. Kuroki. What a sick joke. And yet-

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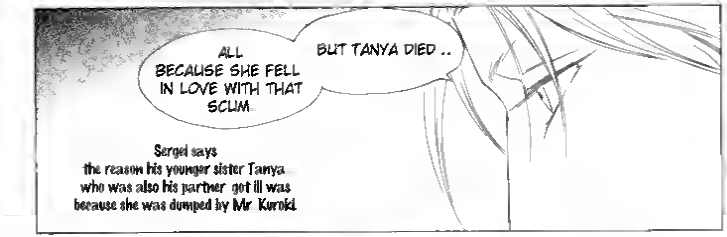
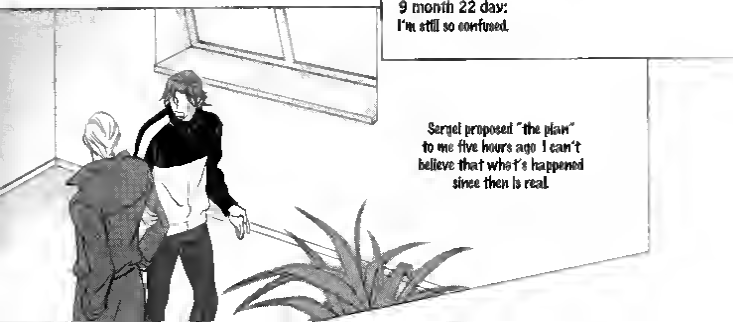
Nod
I should stop these stupid unwarranted suspicions. In a sense I'm not the one to talk anyway.
I wonder what he was thinking as he watched Miyuki-san and Kyou-san all those years
and if he harbored some twisted feelings for their daughter Michiru...
THE TRAINING OF ELITE ATHLETES IS EXPENSIVE
X month X day:
Sergei is my closest friend. Why wasn't I aware of his foolish actions earlier?
THERE'S A SECRET CLUB THAT OFFERS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO DO FIGURE SKATING OR GYMNASTICS,
AND THEN FORCES THEM TO DO THINGS LIKE PROSTITUTION. NAIVE KAKERU, YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN KNOW OF SUCH THINGS.
Even if I had heard of such things, before I would've laughed them off as mere rumors... until I learned that he actually transports the children.

I'M EMPLOYED BY HIM, AND IN EXCHANGE, HE'LL PAY FOR TANYA'S MEDICAL BILLS.
YOU GET IT, NOW, DON'T YOU? IT'S KUROKI.
MEMBERS INCLUDE POLICE BIG-SHOTS AND HOARDS OF PROMINENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.


BUT TANYA DIED ..
ALL BECAUSE SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THAT SCUM.
Sergei says the reason his younger sister Tanya who was also his partner got ill was because she was dumped by Mr. Kuroki.

and now only the absurd word "revenge" falls from your lips.
I pity Sergei. You were always so full of life.

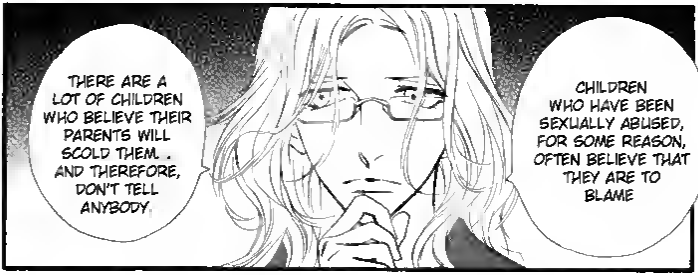

9 month 22 day:
I'm still so confused.
Sergei proposed "the plan" to me five hours ago. I can't believe that what's happened since then is real.

How should I start?
I will end up betraying my friend.
But Michiru is the daughter of the woman I love.
I can't sacrifice her
Michiru's calmed down and is currently in the bathroom
I haven't saved her in the real sense of the word.
I can only pray that the injuries to her mind and body are not too deep. And...
her father, albeit not her biological father, is a criminal.
It appears that Mr. Kuroki, in supplying information and photos of young girls to "Club Bambina", has gained much profit and other benefits.
Sergei's "revenge" scenario has one more objective...
to corner Mr. Kuroki further. He wants to find the list of "Club Bambina" members.
Coach Yonuta's journal, which spanned three years,
ended there.
Did Sergei find the list? And if...

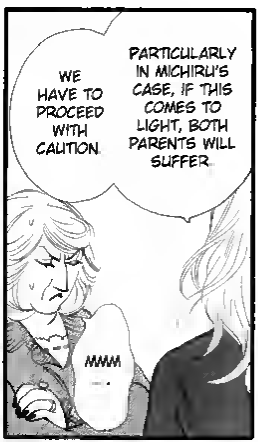
Click
Zzzz
HOW IS MICHIRU?
SHE'S ASLEEP
I'M GLAD SHE'S CALMED DOWN
WHEN YOU AND I FOUND HER, SHE WAS IN SHOCK.

IF WHAT LEON SAYS IS TRUE, I HAVE TO LET HER KNOW.
BUT...
KUROKI-SENSEI REALLY HASN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM MICHIRU?

MAMA, ARE YOU PLANNING ON TELLING MICHIRU'S MOTHER...
ABOUT KAKERU-SAN'S JOURNAL?


CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED, FOR SOME REASON, OFTEN BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE TO BLAME
THERE ARE A LOT OF CHILDREN WHO BELIEVE THEIR PARENTS WILL SCOLD THEM. AND THEREFORE, DON'T TELL ANYBODY.

BUT HIKARU-SAN...
ALTHOUGH, WE'RE ON-SITE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
I'VE TOLD HER THAT SHE'LL BE STAYING WITH US UNTIL THE NHK CUP FOR MENTAL PREPARATION.
YES, THE PROBLEM IS HIKARU!
WHAT IS THAT IDIOT PUPIL THINKING, DISAPPEARING AT SUCH A CRITICAL TIME?!


WE HAVE TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
PARTICULARLY IN MICHIRU'S CASE, IF THIS COMES TO LIGHT, BOTH PARENTS WILL SUFFER.
MMM...

WELL, IT'S HARD TO BLAME HIM WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT HIS SITUATION.
NOPE NO MATTER THE REASON, I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM FOR RUNNING AWAY FROM A COMPETITION.
AND NOT JUST THE COMPE-TITION
IF HE'S IN LOVE WITH MICHIRU ...
RUNNING AWAY NOW IS THE ACTION OF A COWARD!
WELCOME PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOU'RE READY
No way...
Kyahahaha

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SKATE IN THE COMPE-TITION?
AND IT'S ONLY NOVEMBER
WHAT? SNOW...
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TOUCH MICHIRU?
YOU'RE HER PARTNER.
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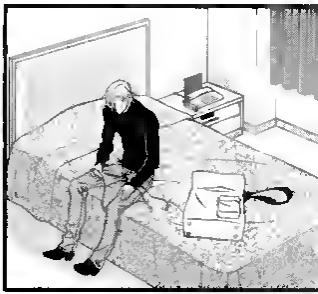
WHEN I FIRST SLEPT WITH HER
SHE LAUGHED..
ABOUT AN ACT SHE ONLY ASSOCIATES WITH VIOLENCE, WERE FUNNY.
SHE THOUGHT MY WORDS,
IN SITUATIONS LIKE THESE,
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY, "BE GENTLE WITH ME"
NO....
AND ENJOYED IT, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU FOOLED AROUND WITH ME.
YES, BECAUSE ...
NO, I..
YOU HURT ME
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU ARE THE SAME AS THEM.

Ah!
WELCOME
KYA
UGH- DON'T YOU FEEL TIRED?
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS THAT'S INSANE
KAKERU... HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO PROTECT MICHIRU...
BUT I...
YES.
GUILT..?

SHE ALSO THINKS HIKARU-KUN TOLD HER HE CAN'T TOUCH HER ANYMORE BECAUSE SHE'S DIRTY
BUT THAT...
APPAR-ENTLY, SHE FEELS REALLY GUILTY ABOUT HIS DEATH
MICHIRU BELIEVES IT'S HER FAULT KAKERU-SAN DIED
THAT'S NOT WHY HIKARU-SAN..
SHH !!
THAT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!
MAMA, YOU STAY HERE.
LEON-KUN, LET'S SPLIT UP AND SEARCH FOR HER.
YES!
PAPA'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP!
"SOMEONE?" WHO ELSE BUT MICHIRU?!
THAT'S TRUE.
WHAT ?
SOMEONE JUST WENT OUT THE FRONT DOOR
WHAT?

"THE RITE OF SPRING."
WE NEVER GOT TO SKATE IT AFTER ALL.



THE SECOND BEFORE THE MUSIC COMES ON,
ATOP THE SILENT ICE,
I CAN ONLY HEAR MY PARTNER'S AND MY BREATHING

AM I OK WITH THAT?
WITH MY TEAM, MY PROGRAM,
EVERYTHING STILL INCOMPLETE?

I'LL SEARCH THIS WAY.

SHE WASN'T BY THE STATION.

Ah!
MICHIRU!
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THE PIECE BEGINS.
THE SOLO BASSOON PLAYS THE MELODY.

CONTINUE WITH A LOOSE SPIN
WE START SKATING ON A DEEP CURVE.
SFX Cling cling cling
I PUT MY WEIGHT ON MY LEADING HAND
THE RHYTHM ENTERS
AN INTENSE, DEMANDING EIGHT BEATS-
AND ENTRUST TO HIM MY BODY
I SKATE OUT THE STEPS, SCRAMBLING TO NOT FALL BEHIND
AN UNINTERRUPTED SEQUENCE..

THE AUDIENCE RISES IN EXCITEMENT FOR A HUGE LIFT.

Sfx Whoosh
MICHIRU ...!
Sfx Fwoosh
Sfx
SHINE
Sfx Whoosh

SFX: Roar
Zwup
Ding

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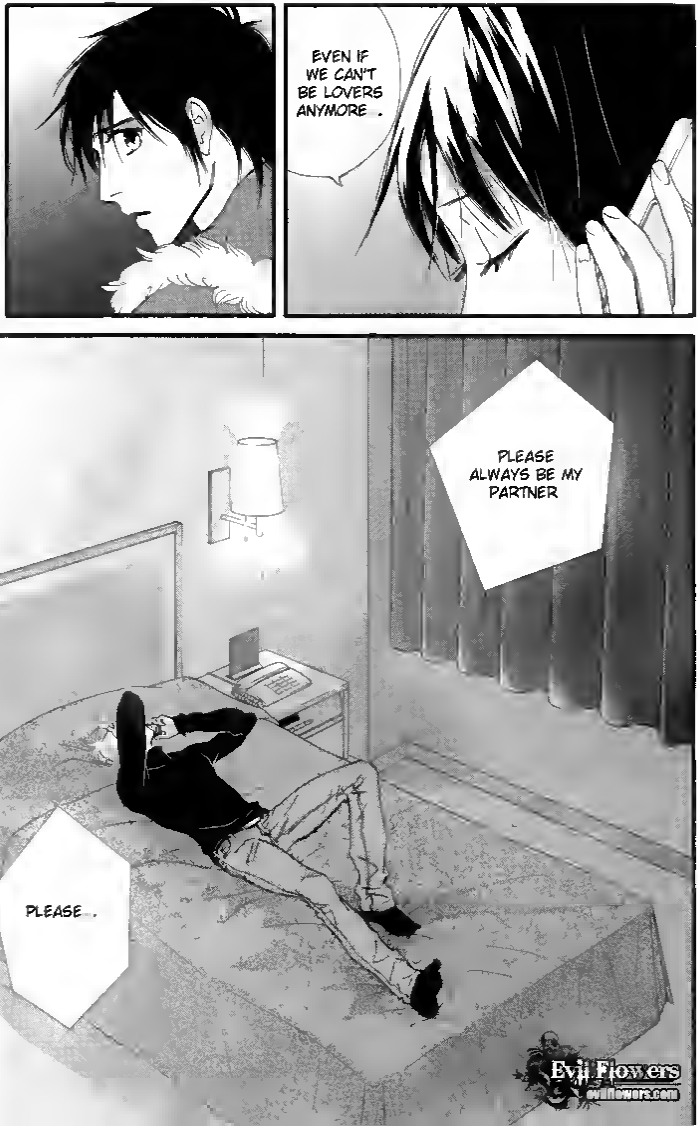
Hää
Hää
MICHIRU,
LET'S SKATE IN THE NHK CUP.
I PROMISE I'LL BRING HIKARU-SAN BACK.
LET'S FINISH IT

"THE RITE OF SPRING."

MICHI-RU!
HURRY! HURRY!
I WILL NEVER FORGET
HOW PRECIOUS HER WARMTH IS THIS NIGHT
YES..

WE GOT A HOLD OF HIKARU-KUN.
WHERE IS HE RIGHT NOW?!
IN HOKKAIDO! HE APPARENTLY WENT TO PAY HIS RESPECTS AT HIS BROTHER'S GRAVE.
HE SAYS HE'LL FLY BACK ON THE EARLIEST FLIGHT AND STOP BY BEFORE HE HEADS TO THE NHK CUP
HIKARU-KUN? I'M GOING TO HAND YOU OVER TO YOUR PRECIOUS PARTNER
MAKE SURE YOU TALK TO HER AND DON'T HANG UP
HIKARU-SAN?

I ALWAYS FELT... THAT I WAS DIRTY AND WORTHLESS, LIKE TRASH
THANK YOU...
BUT I HATED FEELING THAT WAY ..
I COULDN'T TAKE IT.
SO I CONTINUED SKATING
AND TRIED TO LIVE UP TO YOURS AND EVERYBODY'S EXPECTATIONS
FOR CHOOSING ME AS YOUR PARTNER
I WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT I HAD AT LEAST SOME WORTH


EVEN IF WE CAN'T BE LOVERS ANYMORE .
PLEASE ALWAYS BE MY PARTNER
PLEASE .
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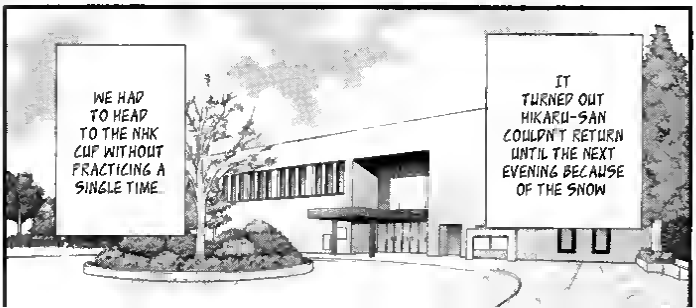
SNIFF
GEEZ.
DON'T STEAL ALL MY LINES!


WE HAD TO HEAD TO THE NHK CUP WITHOUT PRACTICING A SINGLE TIME.
IT TURNED OUT HIKARU-SAN COULDN'T RETURN UNTIL THE NEXT EVENING BECAUSE OF THE SNOW

NHK CUP PUBLIC PRACTICE A DAY BEFORE COMPETITION
THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF PRESS FOR AN ICE DANCING PUBLIC PRACTICE.
IT'S BECAUSE THE KUROKI-YOMOTA PAIR IS GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION
AND YOU'VE HEARD THEY CHANGED THEIR FREE DANCE PIECE
OH, TODAY'S PRACTICE IS THE FREE DANCE RUN-THROUGH, ISN'T IT?
Michiru Kuroki and Hikaru Yomota--
YUP, WE'RE LUCKY.
OH, HERE THEY GO

WHAT CHOREO-GRAPHY!
BUT...
ARE THEY PLANNING ON DOING A FULL RUN-THROUGH HERE?

OUR "RITE OF SPRING"
HAS JUST NOW BEEN COMPLETED.

UM..
Next time let's..
Test Evil Flowers
EVIL FLOWERS ISN'T SURE WHEN A NEXT TIME MIGHT BE
WHAT——?
WHY NOT?!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
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WORK!
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ry Dynamite
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!
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[3] Step4. As Long As We Are Together

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE THE NHK CUP OPENED.
MICHIKU'S FAIR IS CURRENTLY IN 10TH JUST BARELY ABOVE LAST PLACE
IN ICE DANCING, THE COMPULSORY DANCES HAVE FINISHED.

SFX Guh
YO, WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?!
W. WHAT? YUUYA?!
THIS AREA'S FOR AUTHORIZED PEOPLE ONLY.
TADAA! A PRESS ID.
SINCE I'M A FORMER SKATER AND KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ALL, THE NEWSPAPER WHERE I'M INTERNING AT MADE ME AN ASSISTANT.
YOU MUST BE EXCITED TO GET AN ID, TOO
SINCE YOU'RE THE BIGGEST SHOPAHOLIC
YEAH, WELL ...
THERE'S DEFINITELY A DIFFERENT KIND OF EXCITEMENT BEING AT A HALL OR RINK AS SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES AN ATHLETE
YOU'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THE FIRST DAY?
NO, I WAS HERE FOR THE PUBLIC PRACTICE THE DAY BEFORE COMPETITION STARTED BUT THEN LEFT FOR YOKOHAMA
YESTERDAY I PARTICIPATED IN A KDLC PRACTICE AND RETURNED HERE LATER THAT NIGHT
WHOA, YOU'RE TOUGH.

UH, HARUNA-SAN, HARUNA LEON SAN
THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE ORIGINAL DANCE
BUT THE MARIE MOTHER-SON PAIR IS HERE, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
WELL, ACTUALLY, SHE HAS A COLD,
COACH KUROKI'S HERE TOO, RIGHT?
SFX: Cough
Don't come near me
I'm staying in Tokyo
HAS BEEN GAINING SOME ATTENTION
THE "RITE OF SPRING" THAT MICHIRU AND HIKARU-SAN PERFORMED AT THE PUBLIC PRACTICE
Oh, I am her fans!
WE HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE "RITE OF SPRING."
WHAT? YES?
YOU ARE THE CHOREOGRAPHER FOR THE KUROKI-YOMOTA PAIR, CORRECT?
THERE ARE TWO COMPANIES THAT WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU
EH?!
UM, TAKESHI-SAN'S WORK IS THE ORIGINAL,
AND I SORT OF ADAPTED HIS PIECE, SO TO SPEAK.
GOUDA TAKESHI-SAN'S NAME IS ALSO LISTED.
IT'S RATHER RARE FOR A MODERN DANCER TO CHOREOGRAPH FOR ICE DANCING, RIGHT?
UH...WELL, I USED TO DO A LITTLE ICE DANCING, SO-

AS A PAIR, WE'VE YET TO PRODUCE ANY CONCRETE RESULTS,
SO WE CHOSE THIS PIECE, HOPING TO MAKE A STRONG IMPRESSION ON THOSE WATCHING OUR PERFORMANCE
THE "RITE OF SPRING" IS WIDELY CONSIDERED AN EXTREMELY CHALLENGING PIECE. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
IT'S RARE TO DO A COMPLETE RUN-THROUGH AT A PUBLIC PRACTICE, ISN'T IT?
YES, BUT WE'VE BEEN MAKING SOME LAST MINUTE AJUSTMENTS
Kuroki
YES ...
AH, KUROKI-SAN, YOUR FATHER IS STILL IN REHAB IN AMERICA.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? DO YOU WISH HE COULD WATCH THIS COMPETITION?

I WOULD LIKE MY FATHER...
TO SOMEDAY SEE MY "RITE OF SPRING."
Evil Flowers
evilflowers.com
"WISHING HER FATHER COULD WATCH THE PERFORMANCE FROM HIS SICK-BED, MICHIRU KUROKI IN LAST PLACE WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF HER LIFETIME."
AWESOME, THIS IS SOME GOOD TEAR-JERKING STUFF.
HM? WHAT'S THE GUY'S FIRST NAME AGAIN?

THEY'RE TRYING HARD TO STAY FOCUSED
IT'S SCARY HOW ON EDGE THEY ARE...
DO YOU THINK ...
THEY'VE TALKED AT ALL ABOUT COACH YOMOTA?
NO,
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THEY'VE BARELY CONVERSED AT ALL.
MY GUESS IS THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT UNTIL THE COMPETITION'S OVER.
THAT'S TRUE,
BUT-
HIKARU-SAN PROBABLY WANTS TO KNOW ..

WHAT MICHIRU SAW.
SINCE SHE WAS WITH HIS BROTHER RIGHT BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY.
SFX:- W
UH, THIS SEASON'S ORIGINAL DANCE REQUIRES THE "TANGO" RHYTHM.
I'M TRUSTING YOU WITH THE BREAKDOWN SINCE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ICE DANCING
THE WARM-UP'S ALMOST OVER.
OH, IT'S STARTING.
THE KUROKI-YOMOTA PAIR IS FIRST.
NO PROBLEM, LEAVE IT TO ME.
YEAH, RIGHT. I HAD NO IDEA, SO I HAD TO CRAM LAST NIGHT.
It's very different from singles skating.

DURING THE TWO AND A HALF MINUTES, THEY HAVE TO COMPLETE THE SIX REQUIRED ELEMENTS WHILE EXPRESSING THE RHYTHM.
HE'S IN A SITTING POSITION, AND SHE'S IN A BIELMAN, SO THEY'RE BOTH IN DIFFICULT POSITIONS.
THEIR FIRST REQUIRED COMPONENT IS THE DANCE SPIN.
MICHIRU-CHAN, SO SEXY.
STOP ADDRESSING HER SO FAMILIARLY.

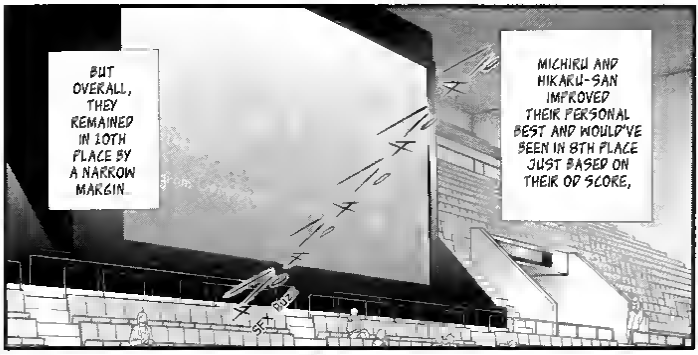
Bluh
SLIP
UH, LET'S SEE. THEY INCORPORATED THREE DIFFICULT POSITIONS AND SPUN AT LEAST SIX TIMES, SO THAT COMPONENT SHOULD BE A LEVEL 4.
MICHIRU-CHAN IS SO FLEXIBLE! ♡
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
THEY JUST BEGAN THEIR DIAGONAL STEP.
IS IT GOOD? IS IT BAD?
UM...
NEXT IS A LIFT.
IT'S HARD TO TELL WITHOUT THE JUMPS.
Pick
HMMM.
THE LEVEL IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF TURNS, SO I'M NOT QUITE SURE,
BUT BOTH OF THEIR EDGES ARE VERY DEEP AND THEY'RE MAINTAINING THEIR SPEED, SO IT'S NOT BAD.

HOW ARE THEY?
NOT BAD.
THEY'RE GAINING SOME LEVELS
MA-SUMI-SAN.
YOU'RE LATE, NAKAMURA-KUN.
THAT'S A LEVEL 2 AT BEST.
THEY'VE ENTERED THEIR MIDLINE STEPS

FOR THE STEPS IN WHICH THEY'RE NOT TOUCHING, IT'S CONSIDERED BETTER TO BE CLOSER AND MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT DISTANCE
That'll lower their GOE score...
THEY'RE USUALLY SO CLOSE
AH, THEY'RE TOO FAR APART!
IS THAT BAD?
AH..
HIKARU-SAN

HE MESSED UP HIS TWIZZLE
THEY'LL BE DOWNGRADED A LEVEL EVEN IF ONLY ONE OF THEM DOES FEWER TURNS.
THAT JUST CAUSED HIM TO BE LATE ENTERING THE LAST ROTATIONAL LIFT.
BUT WITH THAT NUMBER OF ROTATIONS ...
SFX Rum Da Dum

Haa
Haa
Haa


BUT OVERALL, THEY REMAINED IN 10TH PLACE BY A NARROW MARGIN...
MICHIRU AND HIKARU-SAN IMPROVED THEIR PERSONAL BEST AND WOULD'VE BEEN IN 8TH PLACE JUST BASED ON THEIR OD SCORE,

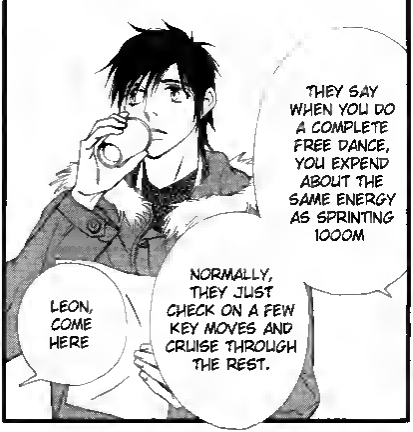
MAN, TANAHASHI-KUN WAS AMAZING.
I WONDER IF HE'LL PUT IN TWO QUADS FOR JAPAN'S NATIONALS.

WHAT'S UP?
SORRY, YOU CAN HEAD BACK TO THE HOTEL WITHOUT ME
YOU WERE HERE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SO WELCOMING AS USUAL ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CUTE PARTNER?
HOW SAD, EATING DINNER ALONE.
Evil Flowers
evilflowers.com
SHE'S BECOME SO FEMININE THAT I WAS SURPRISED.
LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE SEEMED LIKE SUCH A BABY.
YOU LED HER IN THAT ARENA AS WELL?

QUIT IT.
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!
HMPH, SO SERIOUS. THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
WELL, JOKING ASIDE, THE MOOD YOU HAD GOING WAS NICE.
I THOUGHT YOU DESERVED A HIGH SCORE FOR YOUR FIVE COMPONENTS.
WHAT'S GOING ON? TRYING TO KILL ME WITH COMPLIMENTS? ARE YOU CURSING ME?
I can't hear you
WH..IT'S WITH THIS TERRIFIED ACT...
As I was complimenting you
BUT YOU KNOW...
I DIDN'T REALLY SEE YOUR USUAL CHARACTER.
LIKE IF I DON'T WATCH OUT, I MIGHT GET IMPREGNATED?
You know...
WHAT KIND OF CHARACTER IS THAT?
No matter what I say...

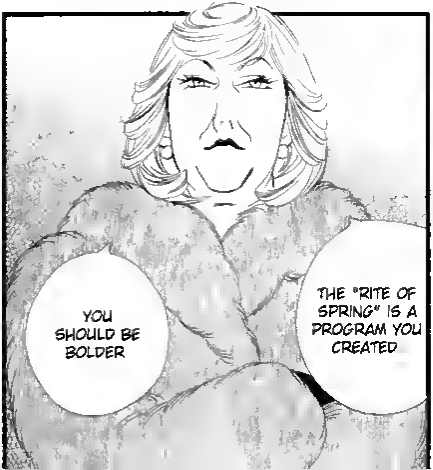
DID YOU HAVE A WALL UP BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR PARTNER?
HAH, JUST KIDDING. WHAT AM I DOING, GIVING MY ENEMY ADVICE?
ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?
OH, NO THANK YOU. I'M ABOUT TO LEAVE
ANYWAY, IF YOU GUYS REMAIN IN LAST PLACE, IT WON'T BE VERY IMPRESSIVE WHEN WE WIN NATIONALS.
SO DO YOUR BEST AT TOMORROW'S FREE DANCE, OK?
Slap

THANKS, ..
MASUMI ..
Slap
YEAH! WE'RE GOING FOR WORLD CHAMPION-SHIP!
LET'S DO THIS!
The ritual back in the day before every competition—
I WONDER WHERE HIKARU-KUN IS EATING
I hope he remembered to use his meal coupon.
I GUESS EVEN HIKARU-KUN GETS NERVOUS.
...


THEY SAY WHEN YOU DO A COMPLETE FREE DANCE, YOU EXPEND ABOUT THE SAME ENERGY AS SPRINTING 1000M
NORMALLY, THEY JUST CHECK ON A FEW KEY MOVES AND CRUISE THROUGH THE REST.
LEON, COME HERE

THEY DIDN'T DO A COMPLETE RUN-THROUGH AT THIS MORNING'S PUBLIC PRACTICE
"RITE OF SPRING," YOU MEAN?
WELL, OF COURSE NOT.

YOU WANT ME TO BE RINK SIDE, TOO, DURING THE COMPETITION?!
WHAT..

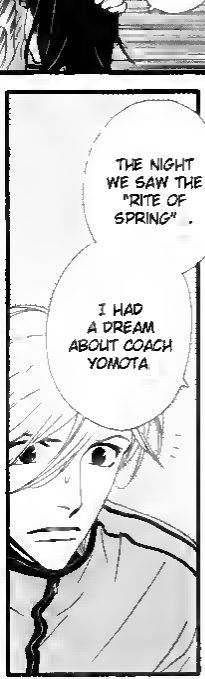

YOU SHOULD BE BOLDER
THE "RITE OF SPRING" IS A PROGRAM YOU CREATED

I even had your ID remade to allow for it
THAT'S BEEN MY PLAN SINCE THE BEGINNING
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT MIYUKI ISN'T HERE..
BUT-

WE SHOULD DO OUR MAKE-UP SOON.
AH.
STILL...
...
HIKARU-SAN.

Sfx Ruh Rub Ruh Rub Rub Rub Rub
I DON'T MIND PLAYFULNESS, BUT THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR IT!!
I WAS TRYING TO GET YOU TO RELAX...
WILL IT COME OFF?! THIS MARKER'S WASHABLE, RIGHT?
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T USE THIS PEN BEFORE.

BUT I FELT LIKE, TO DO AS HE SAID, I HAVE TO FACE THOSE THINGS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN RUNNING FROM.
I DIDN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND,
HE TOLD ME TO MAKE FLOWERS BLOOM THAT WOULD MAKE THE PEOPLE AROUND ME HAPPY.
IT JUST... REQUIRES SO MUCH COURAGE.


THE NIGHT WE SAW THE "RITE OF SPRING".
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT COACH YOMOTA

THE NIGHT COACH PASSED AWAY...
YEAH.
YOU KNEW I WAS WITH HIM, RIGHT?
Evil Flowers
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I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.

LEON-KUUUUN.
I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO THE RINK SIDE.
YOU SHOULD HOLD ON TO THIS FOR MICHIRU IT'S HER GOOD LUCK CHARM.
I KEPT IT FOR HER IN CANADA, BUT I BET IT'LL WORK BETTER IF IT'S CLOSER.
HER GOOD-LUCK CHARM? BUT IT'S FOR HER PHONE
SOME-THING WRONG?
OH! NO.
NO, NO, IT'S NOTHING.

I NEVER REALIZED, BUT THIS
IS PROBABLY ...
APPARENTLY, THAT WHITE CREEPY-LOOKING COCOON THING IS HER LUCKY CHARM.
WELL, SEE YA!
Good Luck
TOKYO
SHE KEPT IT THIS WHOLE TIME...
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Sfx Chatter
WARM-UPS FOR THE FREE DANCE EVENT HAVE FINALLY BEGUN

GROUP ONE CONTESTANTS, PLEASE BEGIN YOUR WARM-UPS.
SFX cheering
FIRST TEAM: KUROKI MICHIRU-- YOMOTA HIKARU.
2ND TEAM—
JAPAN

TELL ME WHEN THE COMPETITION'S OVER.

THE JAPANESE TEAM IS IN A LOWER POSITION ALTHOUGH ONLY BY A SMALL MARGIN.
PUT PRESSURE ON THEM!

FOR BOTH THE SPEAKER AND THE LISTENER.
I'M GUESSING IT'LL BE AS PAINFUL AS BLEEDING

GO KNOCK 'EM DOWN

SO FOR NOW, LET'S JUST SKATE

WE DIDN'T HAD A LOT OF TIME, BUT WE HAD VERY DENSE AND INTENSE PRACTICES.
DON'T WORRY

WE'VE COMPLETED THE "RITE OF SPRING".
WE SHOULD BE STRONGER THAN EVER.
TRUST YOUR-SELVES
ONE MINUTE LEFT FOR WARM-UPS

UM..
Next time let's..
Test Evil Flowers
EVIL FLOWERS ISN'T SURE WHEN A NEXT TIME MIGHT BE
WHAT——?
WHY NOT?!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
Unlike popular anime releases don't just naturally appear. And Evil Flowers has a lot of projects and not enough staff.
WORK!
WORK!
Is we ask our editors to do it again, more times might just explode.
SO JOIN US!
So we sign at see what happens next!

The crazy rabbits!
Evil Flowers' staff!
We need Japanese Translators for all these projects!!!
Sensei to Nasho
Rakuen Route
Honey Bitter
Toki Moka
Bandage no Maihou no Shita
Mangetsu no Yoru ni Akuma no Kiss
Short Sunzen
Clover
Gal Kadou
ry Dynamite
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!
VISIT US AT: WWW.EVILFLOWERS.COM

Brought to you by:
Evil Flowers
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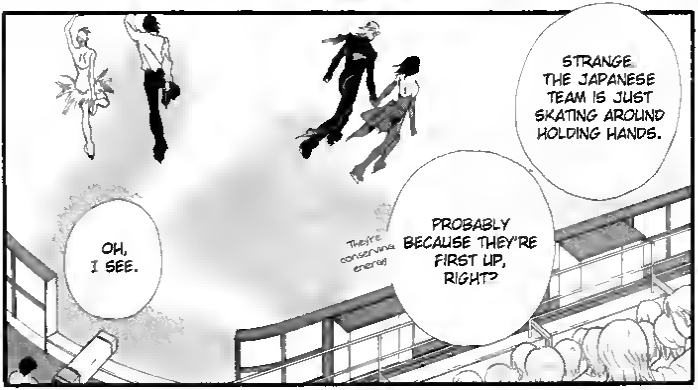
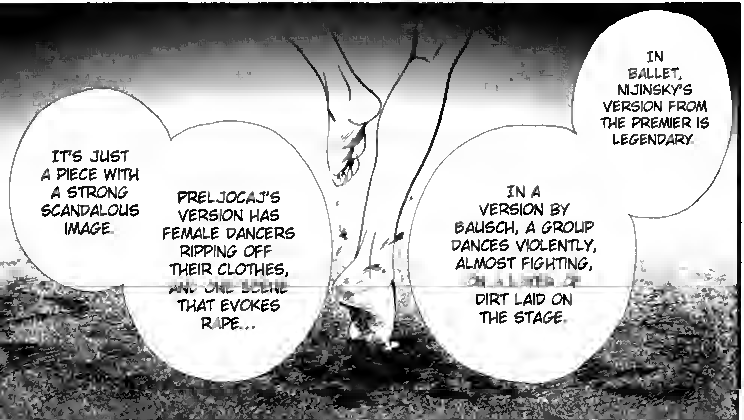
The Free Dance warm-up is ending

TRUST IN OURSELVES.


STRANGE. THE JAPANESE TEAM IS JUST SKATING AROUND HOLDING HANDS.
PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY'RE FIRST UP, RIGHT?
They're conserving energy
OH, I SEE.

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO RE-CONFIRM THEIR BOND
THIS MOMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEM
IT'S RARELY USED IN FIGURE SKATING. I'VE SEEN IT ONCE BEFORE BY A MALE SINGLE'S SKATER
IS IT REALLY THAT DIFFICULT? STRAVINSKY, RIGHT?
But "The Firebird" is a standard one, isn't it?
I HEARD THAT THEY'D CHANGED THEIR FREE DANCE PIECE, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED IT'D BE THE "RITE OF SPRING."

TL Note - Stravinsky wrote both the "Rite of Spring" and "The Firebird"


IT'S JUST A PIECE WITH A STRONG SCANDALOUS IMAGE.
PRELJOCAJ'S VERSION HAS FEMALE DANCERS RIPPING OFF THEIR CLOTHES, AND ONE SCENE THAT EVOKES RAPE...
IN A VERSION BY BAUSCH, A GROUP DANCES VIOLENTLY, ALMOST FIGHTING, ON A LAYER OF DIRT LAID ON THE STAGE.
IN BALLET, NIJINSKY'S VERSION FROM THE PREMIER IS LEGENDARY.

STILL, THAT MICHIRU CHICK... THE DEPTH OF HER POTENTIAL IS ABNORMAL
YOU CAN'T WRITE HER OFF SO EASILY.
PRACTICE TIME IS NOW OVER. ALL COMPETITORS MUST NOW LEAVE THE RINK AND...
NOT TO MENTION THE COMPLEX AND HIGHLY IRREGULAR RHYTHM IT'S CALLED POLY-RHYTHM,
BUT IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO DANCE OR SKATE TO
I CAN'T IMAGINE THE KUROKI-YOMOTA PAIR CAN PULL IT OFF SINCE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TOGETHER LONG.
YOU'RE HARSH
FIRST TEAM. KUROKI-YOMATA PAIR.
JAPAN
-sfx Waaaaah

AND THE GIRL IS IN BLOOD-RED!
A HORROR PROGRAM?
SHHH!
THEIR COSTUMES ARE UNUSUAL.
THE GUY IS IN HEAD-TO-TOE BLACK...

THEY'RE BEGINNING WITH A SPIN.
IT'S AN AWFULLY QUIET PIECE, ISN'T IT?
ACTUAL-LY ...
Evil Flowers
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THE MELODY CHANGED
WHAT IS THIS?! YOU CAN'T SKATE TO THIS!

SFX: SHIT
SFX: SHIT
NO, IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, THE BASIC BEAT IS AN 8-COUNT.
REGARDLESS, THEY'RE WELL IN-SYNCH. THEY MUST'VE LISTENED TO IT OFTEN
YOUR IMAGE IS DEATH
HIKARU-SAN, YOU ARE THE EXECUTIONER WHO IS OFFERING THE MAIDEN FOR SACRIFICE
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME? WHY WAS I CHOSEN?
THE MAIDEN REFUSES TO ACCEPT HER DESTINY AND RESISTS

THE MAIDEN'S TERROR AND RAGE
---THE ROAR OF... "DEATH - THE ONE WHO SYMBOLIZES... HER IRRATIONAL FATE
sfx: Whoosh
FLY!
THEY'RE MIRRORING EACH OTHER IN THE MIDLINE STEPS, MAKING IT SEEM LIKE THEY'RE FIGHTING.
THEY'RE DOING A GOOD JOB TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EACH OTHER'S MOVEMENTS AT INTERSECTIONS
sfx: Uwaah
SO HIGH!
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO JUMP IN ICE DANCING?

THEY'RE CAPITALIZING ON KUROKI'S JUMPING ABILITY.
OH, AND NOW...
IGUCHI-SAN, IN ICE DANCING YOU'RE PERMITTED SINGLE ROTATION JUMPS, RIGHT?
THAT'S TRUE
ALTHOUGH DUE TO ENERGY CONSTRAINTS AND LEVEL OF IMPACT, THE MALE DANCER JUMPS ALONE.
IS THIS A DEATH SPIRAL?
YES, IT IS.
IN THEIR TRANSITIONS, THEY'RE INCORPORATING SOME PAIR-SKATING-LIKE MOVES. IT'S QUITE AN INGENIOUS PROGRAM.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME PROPERLY WATCHING ICE DANCING, BUT IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING.
YEAH
EVENTUALLY

TO CALL IN THIS CRUELEST SEASON - SPRING!
AND SUBMITS HER BODY TO DEATH
THE MAIDEN ACCEPTS HER FATE--
COME NOW, STOP MY LIFE'S BREATH...
TEAR ME TO PIECES WITH THOSE HANDS

KUROKI-SAN ENTERED A SPIN WITH A SUPER HIGH BUTTERFLY.
like this
EVEN THAT TECHNIQUE IS RESERVED FOR THE MALE SKATER... SHE'S A LOT STRONGER THAN SHE LOOKS.
SINCE THE SECOND SPIN DOESN'T EARN ANY LEVELS, THEY'RE STRICTLY AIMING FOR IMPACT.
THEIR SPINS ARE SO FAST,
EVEN GIVEN HOW LIGHT SHE IS ..
ARE YOU IMPLYING I'M HEAVY?
WOOHHH
UH, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL.
HM? NOW WHAT?
THIS BLOODCURDLING PERFORMANCE IS 180 DEGREES FROM "ROMEO AND JULIET."
THE KUROKI-YOMATA PAIR -- WILL THEY BE ABLE TO RISE UP FROM LAST PLACE?

sfx. Jan
sfx Rattle Rattle Rattle
sfx Clap Clap Clap Clap
sfx WAAAAAAAAH

A STANDING OVATION..

GOOD JOB
LEON,

THANK YOU.
THANKS.
clasp
LIKE-WISE
Smile
Trophy
THE MARKS FOR KUROKI-YOMOTA PAIR—
TECHNICAL SCORE. 45.67. PROGRAM COMPONENTS SCORE. 36.67.

LEON! 6.27 FOR CHOREOGRAPHY!
Y... YEAH
YEAH
A COMBINED SCORE OF 151.28 CURRENTLY IN FIRST PLACE.
TWO SCORES IN THE 6 RANGE... OH
THE FIVE COMPONENTS ARE HIGH!
Sfx: glomp
IT WAS AMAZINGLY BEAUTIFUL.
GOOD JOB! EVERYBODY DID SO WELL!
Sfx: clap
YEAH...
NATIONALS ARE GONNA BE TOUGH.

Even Hikaru-san was getting worked up over the unaccustomed media frenzy
Michiru and Hikaru-san raised their rank by three places and ended up in seventh.
LOOK AT THIS.
THEY'VE INCLUDED DRAWINGS OF YOU TWO! LOOKS PRETTY SIMILAR.
SHE WRITES, "I'VE BECOME OBSESSED WITH ICE DANCING THANKS TO YOU."
THIS PERSON CAME ALL THE WAY FROM KYUUSHUU ...
SHE CAME FOR THE GUYS' COMPETITION BUT BECAME A FAN OF YOURS AFTER SHE SAW THE TANGO.
OH
THAT'S SWEET.
YES.

IN THE PAST,
I'VE ALWAYS ONLY LIKED MYSELF WHEN I WAS SKATING.
SO TO ESCAPE FROM THE PAIN, I SKATED FOR MYSELF.
YOU KNOW, DOMI...
BUT SINCE I'VE SWITCHED TO ICE DANCING, I'VE HAD TO THINK FOR MY PARTNER
COACH DANDOWA, LEON, DOMI .. SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE SUPPORTED ME.
EVEN TODAY, THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO STOOD UP AND CLAPPED FOR US, THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE US FLOWERS ...

NOW,
I WANT TO SKATE A GREAT PERFORMANCE FOR EVERYONE.
Evil Flowers
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AND... AND FOR OUR MANAGER NISHINO-SAN.
YOU MEAN NISHIDA-SAN
cling

But ...
Not knowing that awful thing happened to her because I didn't stop her...
I MADE THIS, HOPING SHE'D CHEER UP.
BACK THEN, MICHIRU STOPPED TALKING AND GOING TO THE RINK
Michiru smiled
THANK YOU.
She smiled ... for me.
ARE YOU LISTENING, MICHIRU-CHAN?

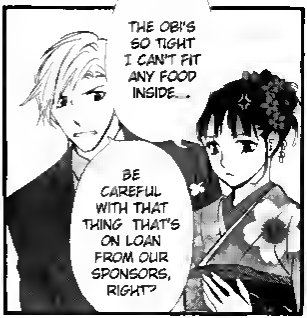
AT ELEVEN YOU HAVE TWO INTERVIEWS IN THE HOTEL LOBBY WITH A SPORTS MAGAZINE, AND AFTER THAT--
MICHIRU.
OH, HARUNA-KUN, DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US FOR DINNER?
UH, UM, WELL...
Sfx grab
LET'S GO.
WHAT? BUT--
SHOW SOME CONSIDE-RATION.
IT'S JUST... I, UH, MICHIRU...
DAMN.
IF ONLY I WERE AS DENSE AS NISHIDA!

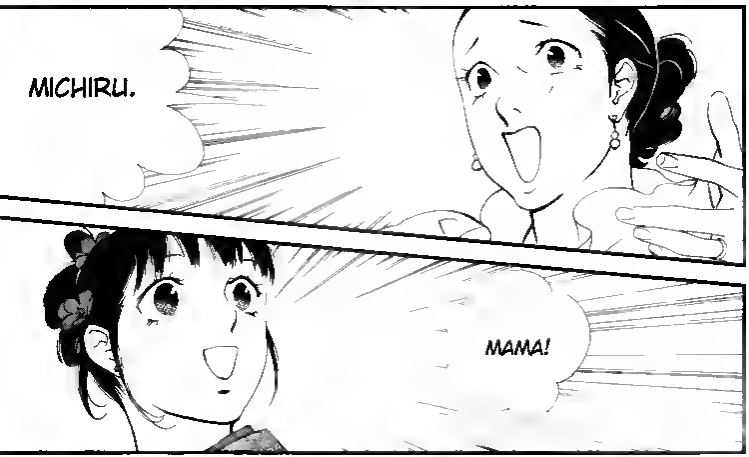
Blush
SORRY, I WAS HOLDING ONTO THIS FOR YOU
WHAT
OHH
SHE'S BLUSHING!
YOU WERE HOLDING ONTO IT FOR ME?
UH, YEAH DOMI PASSED IT ONTO ME
HM? THERE'S ONE MORE...
Orville Barrier
OH... I'M A LITTLE LATE, BUT THAT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT
I DIDN'T THINK YOU STILL HAD THE ONE I GAVE YOU BEFORE, SO NOW YOU HAVE TWO, BUT..

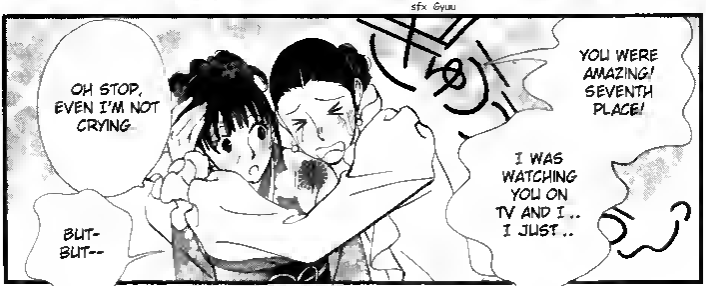
THAT ONE'S A REAL BRAND AND EVERYTHING, SO YOU CAN THROW OUT THE OLD ONE
SEEING IT NOW IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE A SKATE ANYWAY.
DOMI CALLED IT A COCOON...
I WON'T THROW IT AWAY.
THIS IS MY--
PRECIOUS GOOD-LUCK CHARM.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE NEW ONE, TOO.
THANK YOU.

And at the closing banquet...
sfx: cl ck
The next day Michiru and Hikaru-san skated in the exhibition.
They hadn t prepared an exhibition program though, so they just skated the OP tango.
she says are just extra props
yep
LOOK OVER HERE, PLEASE
OK, THANK YOU
EVERY-BODY LOOKS GOR-GEOUS
OOH, THE PRIZE FOR WINNING BINGO IS A HUGE HIGH-DEF TELEVISION!
Mabuna looks cute

MICHIRU, COACH KUROKI IS HERE
WHAT?
OH, HELLO
HIKARU-KUN, COME OVER HERE A MINUTE


THE OBI'S SO TIGHT I CAN'T FIT ANY FOOD INSIDE...
BE CAREFUL WITH THAT THING THAT'S ON LOAN FROM OUR SPONSORS, RIGHT?


MICHIRU.
MAMA!


sfx: Gyuu
OH STOP, EVEN I'M NOT CRYING
BUT- BUT--
YOU WERE AMAZING! SEVENTH PLACE!
I WAS WATCHING YOU ON TV AND I.. I JUST..

YOU TWO ARE AS CLOSE AS EVER
COME ON, GREET HIM
HELLO
OH, MY. HOW EMBARRASSING.
MICHIRU, THIS IS SHIRAI-SAN. HE'S A MANAGER AT YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY.
YOU'VE MET SEVERAL TIMES WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, DO YOU REMEMBER?

HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU'VE BECOME.
YOU WERE JUST A CHILD...
OH, THERE ARE SOME FEDERATION PEOPLE OVER THERE. I'LL HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU.
LET'S GO, SHIRAI-SAN.
YES.
MICHIRU,
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
HIKARU-KUN, THERE'S BEEF TONGUE OVER THERE. SHALL I GO GET YOU SOME?

WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN'T REMEMBER--
MICHIRU IS...
EXCUSE ME
AWW
THAT MAN.
I RECOGNIZE HIM, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER!

UM..
Next time let's..
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Evil Flowers
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Kiss and Never Cry Volume 04 Chapter 24
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Translator: jekyl03
Missing Translations: Tronny
Proofreader: Unie
Cleaner: sroa
Typesetter: Mewmew
Quality Checker: Tessa
Visit us at: www.evilflowers.com

*Transfigured Night (is a string sextet in one movement composed by Arnold Schoenberg)

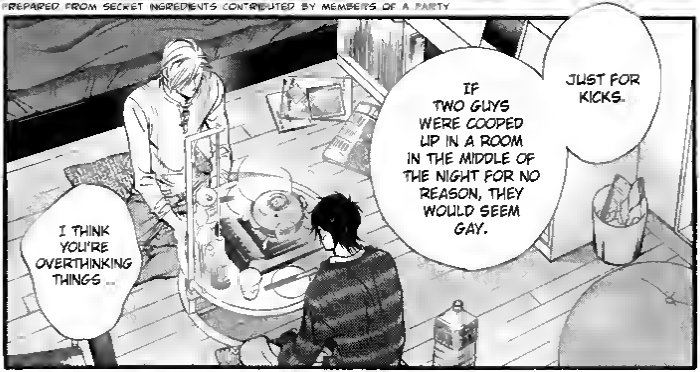
【第3章】 Step6. *Verklärte Nacht**

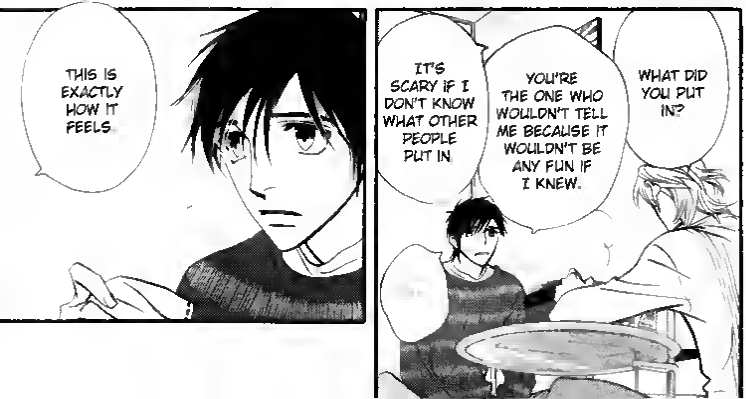
The NHK cup concluded
The top ranking athletes of the Grand Prix Series moved onto the finals.
Kyaa
kyaa
Tanabashi-kun!
and Michiru and Hikaru-san began making adjustments for their next big competition - Japan's Nationals.
WELL, NOW, MORE INTERVIEWS TODAY!
But apparently, that wasn't all.

Next, we're going to the M magazine's lobby...
IT'S CLOSE
BUT LET'S TAKE A TAXI
MICHIRU-CHAN, STICK TO WHAT WE REHEAR-SED!
UM... OH, LIKE MY LEGS GET KICKED, AND IT HURTS?
WHAT ASPECTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM SINGLES' SKATING, AND DO YOU FIND CHALLENGING?
SEE HERE THIS AMAZINGLY CHISELED ABDOMEN!
*VROOM
HM?
HIKARU-SAN...
UHM

I KNOW YOU'RE HUNGRY BUT HANG IN THERE
OKAY
Ah!
MICHIRU-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY WITH A RICE OMELET FROM RENGATE! FOR LUNCH?
Turn
UH, YES
WE'RE TOGETHER EVERY DAY...
AND YET WE HAVE NO TIME TO TALK PRIVATELY
Tss
Tss
Tss
Tss

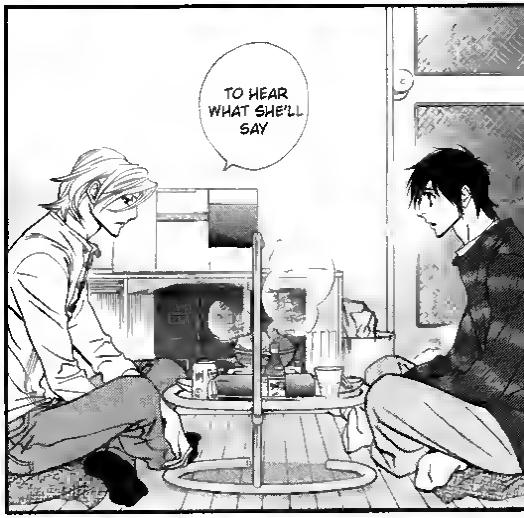
*STEW PREPARED FROM SECRET INGREDIENTS CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS OF A PARTY


I THINK YOU'RE OVERTHINKING THINGS...
IF TWO GUYS WERE COOPED UP IN A ROOM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR NO REASON, THEY WOULD SEEM GAY.
JUST FOR KICKS.


THIS IS EXACTLY HOW IT FEELS.
IT'S SCARY IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER PEOPLE PUT IN
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WOULDN'T TELL ME BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN IF I KNEW.
WHAT DID YOU PUT IN?

WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE.
HONESTLY, I'M SCARED...

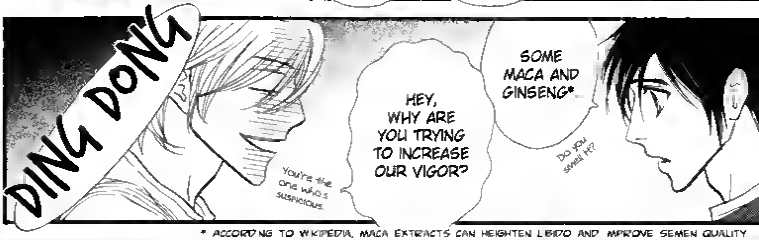
IF ONLY WE COULD ALL JUST PRETEND LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED--
FORGET EVERYTHING AND START ANEW
HIKARU-SAN


TO HEAR WHAT SHE'LL SAY

DOMI SAID...
THAT MICHIRU PROBABLY LOCKED AWAY HER MEMORIES BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT HER PAINFUL CHILDHOOD.

BUT NOW, SHE'S TRYING TO FACE THEM...
THE PAST IS JUST INESCAPABLE.
HELLO ?
MANGO ?
Ring Ring Ring Ring
THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE
I'm gonna open the ca
FOR NOW, LET'S GO OVER WHAT WE KNOW AND TRY TO SORT IT OUT.
UM ...
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU LEA--
Cough
WAS THAT MICHIRU?
WHAT?
WHERE ARE YOU? KAN-PACHI?
NO .. NO, IT'S FINE OKAY, SEE YOU

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS ALREADY ODDLY SUSPICIOUS AS IT IS.
PLEASE DON'T MAKE SUCH DESPERATE EXCUSES TO ME
THAT'S WHY SHE'S COMING, OKAY? AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING FISHY
WE HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK SINCE THE NHK CUP
YEAH, BUT DON'T MISUNDER-STAND...



* ACCORDING TO WIKIPEDIA, MACA EXTRACTS CAN HEIGHTEN LIBIDO AND IMPROVE SEMEN QUALITY

I'M SORRY IT'S SO LATE.
WAIT ——
HE EXPECTS ME TO JUMP DOWN FROM HERE?
UH .
NO WORRIES. IT'S OKAY ON YOUR END?
MAMA'S IN AMERICA RIGHT NOW ...
CAN I SPEND THE NIGHT?
!
WHOA! WHAT TO DO?!
love
PLEASE, HIKARU-SAN, I STILL-
Mowawa

PLEASE, HIKARU, JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!!
Stare.
...
I BROUGHT MY SLEEPING BAG
AH . YOU'RE SO PREPARED.
WELL, THEN, THIS IS A PRESENT I BROUGHT FOR YOU, BUT CAN I PUT THIS IN, TOO?
PEOPLE DON'T NORMALLY GIVE PRESENTS OF CHICKEN GIBLETS (RAW), YOU KNOW.
And you better not say "I prepared it myself 'cause that'd be scary.
WE JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE IT AT HOME.
That's kinda nasty too.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYBODY WAS HERE OR ANYTHING.
OH! THIS IS --UH,
YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES SOME SOLO POT-COOKING CAN BE NICE.
SINCE IT'S COLD AND ALL.
ACHOO!

IF I'M INTERRUPTING SOMETHING, I CAN LEAVE
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
ACTUALLY, I'LL HEAD OUT... SINCE YOU HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO TALK ABOUT.
THE TRAINS ARE STILL RUNNING ANYWAY

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PLEASE STAY.
IT'S OKAY

On that night, with a seemingly frozen moon and Christmas approaching,
We,
as if softly removing a bandage, faced the past.
ZZ

ACHOO!

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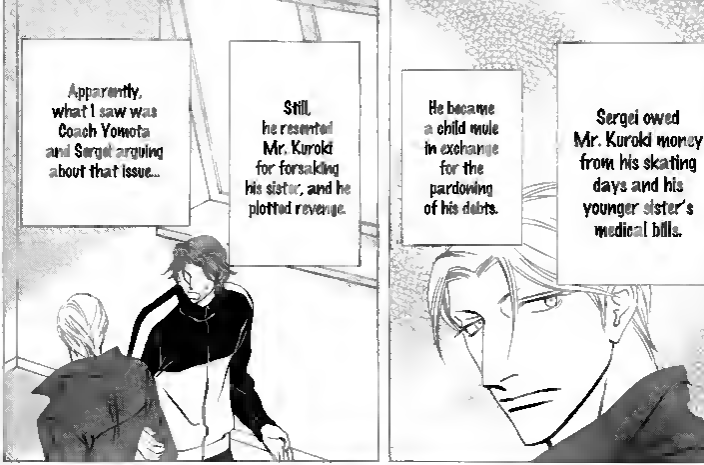
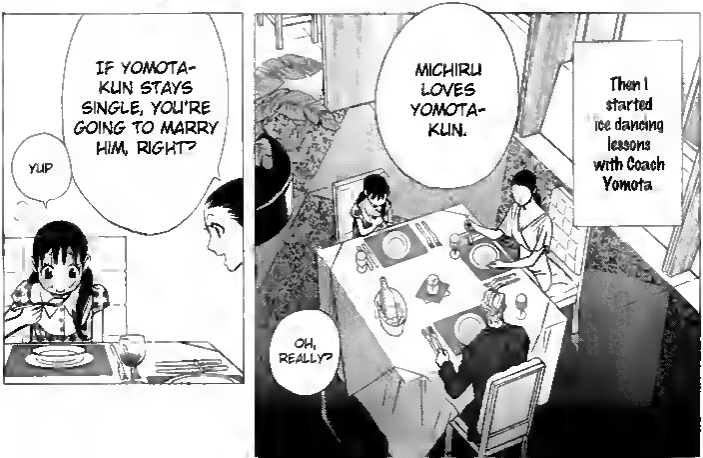
ZZ
ZZ

had been profiting by supplying information about children to "Club Bambina," a secret club that prostituted young children
Michiru's step father, Mr Kuroki,
CREAK
He even submitted pictures of Michiru that he had taken himself.
IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO HATE YOU,
BE A GOOD GIRL.


Apparently, what I saw was Coach Yomota and Sergei arguing about that issue...
Still, he resented Mr. Kuroki for forsaking his sister, and he plotted revenge.
He became a child mule in exchange for the pardoning of his debts.
Sergei owed Mr. Kuroki money from his skating days and his younger sister's medical bills.

I met Michiru on her 9th birthday.


IF YOMOTA-KUN STAYS SINGLE, YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HIM, RIGHT?
YUP
MICHIRU LOVES YOMOTA-KUN.
Then I started ice dancing lessons with Coach Yomota
OH, REALLY?

YOMOTA-KUN REMINDS ME OF PAPA.
BECAUSE--
Forced to quit ice dancing and move to Tokyo, Michiru decided to run away from home.
I was invited to go with her, but..
Festival

A sacrifice for his revenge...
Once alone, Michiru was abducted by Sergei.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
A NICE PLACE.
Having discovered what Sergei plotted, Coach Yomota rescued Michiru and took her to his apartment.
Eventually, someone claiming to be the police arrived.
The last journal entry was written while Michiru was in the bathroom.
And told Michiru to listen to music and put her inside a closet.
Coach hid the journal saved on the laptop under a mat.

Sergei was in the room...
Michiru opened the closet door and saw Coach's body.
When the CD finished, unable to withstand any more terror,
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE GIRL KAKERU PROTECTED, I'LL SAVE YOU
IF ANYBODY ASKS,
YOU'RE TO SAY, "I GOT LOST."
Sergei went into hiding but later appeared several times before Hikaru-san to return Coach's things.
Coach's murder was covered up as an unfortunate burglary incident.
put Michiru in the green car, and drove her back to the rink.
Sergei took some things from Coach's room.

he attempted to kill Mr Kuroki but was shot by a security guard...
After delivering the laptop containing the journal and the DVD.
I found Michiru once she was returned to the rink.
My father contacted Mr Kuroki, whom came to pick her up.
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE...
NO, NO...
I'LL TAKE HER HOME ONCE SHE'S CALMED DOWN A LITTLE.
WE'LL LEAVE YOU TWO THEN...
GOOD NIGHT...

And then--
WHY DID YOU GO WITH HIM?!
YOU'VE BEEN SEDUCING ADULTS.
YOU'RE A BAD CHILD!
YOU DESERVE PUNISHMENT.

The angel's wings...

were plucked to nothing.

IT WAS TOO PAINFUL FOR ME TO WATCH HER, SO I ALSO LEFT.
WELL,
DO YOU BLAME MICHIRU FOR YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH?
HIKARU-SAN,
OF COURSE NOT.
MICHIRU AND I ARE IN THE SAME BOAT.

NO...
I THINK SO, TOO.
IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT WE WERE SO PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE FROM THE START.
WE BOTH LOST SOMEONE WE LOVED ...
AND ARE STILL BOUND BY THE PAIN.
AM I WRONG?
WE'RE BOTH BOUND BY THE SAME THING, AND WE FORMED A TEAM TO UNBIND OURSELVES.
in order to release myself from my own curse.
I want to help them...

MICHIRU SAID SHE'S PREPARING BREAKFAST, SO COME BACK
DID I HAVE ANYTHING TO COOK...?
OH WELL THEN I'LL BE ON MY WAY
AH.
SHE SAID, "LEON, TOO."
BY THE WAY, CAN MICHIRU COOK?
UM...
NO IDEA I'M SURE SHE'S FINE..
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
Chicken giblets

AND TALKING EVERYTHING THROUGH WITH THE TWO OF THEM, THERE'S STILL ONE THING I CAN'T FIGURE OUT.

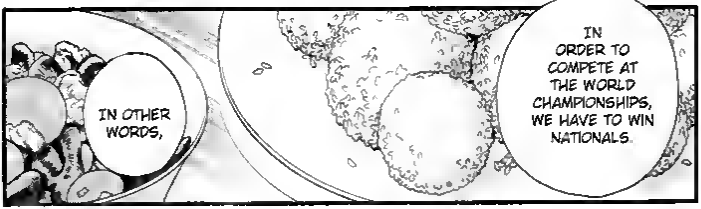
AFTER READING SENSEI'S JOURNAL,

WHO KILLED SENSEI?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU'VE GROWN
THIS IS...SHIKAI-SAN.

I'M...STILL FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
SOMETHING VERY FRIGHTENING--
OH, MY.
I KNEW I SHOULD'VE GIVEN YOU A PLASTIC MUG.
SHIRAI... HAS SEEN MICHIRU?
HUH?
YES, HE ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE BANQUET.
DON'T LET HIM NEAR HER!

With our hearts as one,



there's probably a miracle that only we can create.
YOU JUST REALIZED THAT NOW?!
THERE'S ONLY ONE SPOT FOR ICE DANCING
THIS ISN'T A BREAKFAST ITEM EITHER!
MICHIRU, IS IT OKAY IF I ADD SOME FLAVOR TO THIS?

◆Kiss and Never Cry Volume 4 -END-◆

スケートまんが右往左往…

【Polyrhythm】

「春の祭典」でちゃんとアイスダンスができるのか、微妙に疑問だったんですけど（おいおい）ミュージシャンの義兄が4分に編集してくれた「春の祭典」は本当にそのままプログラムに使えそうで感動でした。さすがプロ！――どなたか使ってみませんか？

スケートと関係ないですが、みちるがカニを食べているシーン、殻を大量に描いてくれたアシさんグッジョブです。

【Pain】

みちるがヨナちゃんばりのルッソ（と私の頭の中ではなっている）を跳んでいますが、トゥピックの小さいダンス用のブレードでトゥジャンプが跳べるのかどうか実は知りません――特に指摘もなかったし、きっと大丈夫（うふ♡）。

【Kind of Link】

NHK杯の会場は、マガジンハウスのY池さんからご厚意で頂いた'07年の会場（仙台）の資料をもとに描きました。本当に助かりました！

【As Long As We Are Together】

上記の通り会場は仙台なわけですが、みちるたちのODの課題はリアルでは前シーズンのものになります。このマンガはフィクションなので、パラレルな設定であることをご了承ください(^^)。

他にもルール改定でロングリフトが10秒から12秒になったり、スコアの表示でPBでなくSBが表示されるようになったりしたんですが、途中で変えるとおかしいものはそのままです。滑走順は悩ましい…リアルのグランプリシリーズは'07年、試験的に滑走順を抽選なしに、ランク順にしたんですよね。連載時はちょうどGPシリーズをTV放送していたので、準じたほうがいいのか？と…。結局どっちとも取れるような描き方にしておきました（えへ♡）。リンクサイドに礼音が入れるのかどうかも齋藤さんにいろいろ相談しました。結果は――「たぶんオッケー」（あは♡）。

あと細かいことですが、演出上、みちるたちは最後に化粧しているように描かれていますが、実際の選手はヘアメイクを先に済ませ、最後に衣装に着替えることが多いみたいです。

【Rite of Spring】

描いてるときはなんかものすごい数のダンスシーンを描いているような気がしていたんですが、改めて見るとそうでも――ない……？

みちるの「バタフライでスピンに入った」シーンは、齋藤さんから「どうやって？」というツッコミが入ったのですが、これは'06－'07シーズンのデイビス／ホワイト組（米）のFDを参考にしました。マンガと同じようにプログラムの終盤で、要素外（レベル判定されない）のスピンとしてやっていたので、正しいダンス・スピンでなく、チャーリーが跳んでスピンに入り、直後にメリルが一緒に回るような形でした。ちなみに直前にものすごい回転のリフトをしていたので、チャーリーの若さと体力に驚愕しました。

【Verklärte Nacht】

棚橋くん優勝おめでとう。この回はこれといったスケートネタがないですね。タイトルはドイツ語で、シェーンヘルクの「浄夜」から。英語も併記しようかと思ったのですが、長いからいらないということに。罪をも浄められ、聖なるものへ変容する夜、というありがたい意味を持つ名曲。

●この本を読んだご意見・ご感想をお寄せいただければうれしく思います。

なお、お送りいただいたお手紙、おハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

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